

12.23 hrs

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

[English]

**Situation arising out of Continued Strike by
Textile Mill Workers in Delhi**

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : I call the attention of the Minister of Labour to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The situation arising out of the continued strike by textile mill workers in Delhi since 28th May, 1986 and the steps taken by the government to resolve the issues involved therein.”

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA)** : On the 16th February, 1986, a Sangharsh Committee of six trade Unions gave notice of a 11 point charter of demands to the managements of five textile mills in Delhi, viz., Delhi Cloth mills, Swatantra Bharat Mills, DCM Silk Mills, Birla Textile Mills and Ajudhiya Textile Mills. The demands included among others, an interim relief of Rs. 100 per month pending wage revision, neutralisation of Dearness Allowance at 100%, House Rent Allowance, regularisation of badli, casual and temporary workers, reinstatement of all workers who had been dismissed-suspended since 1979, and withdrawal of police cases filed against workmen from 1979 onwards. Though the Sangharsh Committee did not file a statement of claims, the matter was taken in conciliation by the Delhi Administration, and a number of proceedings have been held by the Conciliation Officers and the Labour Commissioner, Delhi Administration with the textile managements and the Unions. The conciliation efforts failed. Therefore, a series of meetings were held with the parties, firstly by the Executive Councillor (Health) who is looking after Labour and then by the Lt. Governor, Delhi to explore ways of reaching a settlement. In these discussions, the managements agreed to consider the demand for interim relief provided the workmen were agreeable to link it with productivity. This was not acceptable to the unions and no settlement could be reached. In the circumstances, those

demands which were specific, and constituted industrial disputes, were referred by the Delhi Administration on 25.4.1986 for adjudication by the Industrial Tribunal, Delhi. These demands include grant of interim relief, Dearness Allowance, House Rent Allowance, reduction in workload and regularisation of bad li, casual and temporary workers.

The Sangharsh Committee served a notice of strike on the managements on 12.5.1986, declaring their intention of going on strike from 28.5.1986. The Lt. Governor, Delhi personally intervened, and called a number of meetings, in an effort to settle the dispute and avert the strike. But no mutually acceptable settlement could be reached, about 20,000 textile workers went on an indefinite strike from 28.5.1986.

The members of the Sangharsh Committee met me from time to time and sought my intervention in the matter. Accordingly, I called a meeting of all the parties on 19th June, 1986 to try to get the managements and the Union resolve their differences and settle the matter amicably. The Lt. Governor, Delhi attended the meeting. The persisting differences between the managements and the Unions relate to grant of interim relief, and its linkage with productivity, and withdrawal of disciplinary cases involving workers. I appealed to both parties that efforts be continued to break the deadlock and to find a mutually acceptable solution early. The parties agreed to my suggestion that the talks be resumed. I am to inform the House that the Labour Commissioner, Delhi Administration and the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) have held several rounds of joint and separate discussions with the managements and the Unions from 19.6.1986 to 16.7.1986, in which the proposals put forward respectively by the parties, and the compromise formulae suggested by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) were considered. Though as a result of these deliberations, there seem to be a softening of attitude on the part of both the parties, differences continue and no settlement could be reached so far. However, the mediatory efforts with the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) assisting the Delhi Administration to forge a settlement are continuing.

12.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*][*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are five textile mills in Delhi, three of which belong to DCM group, one mill belongs to Birla group and one to the Government of India. The number of workers who had been working in these five mills was 25,000 and now their number has been reduced to 20,000. What is the reason for such reduction? As a result of it, the workload on the workers has increased considerably. Earlier a worker used to run 8 looms and now he has to run 16 looms. Though the number of workers has been reduced from 25,000 to 20,000 in these mills, yet the work remains unaffected. These five mills have common history of strikes and agreements. In 1979, an agreement was signed between the management and the union of National Textile Corporation Mill. Similarly on 16th August 1979, agreements were signed between the managements and the unions of other mills of DCM and Birla group. These agreements were effective for a period of five years and the managements should have signed another agreement *suo moto* on the expiry of five years term, but when the management failed to do so, the unions have submitted their charter of demands and served a strike notice. As stated by the hon. Minister after submission of charter of demands, some of the demands have been referred to the Labour Commissioner to be decided under the Industrial Disputes Act. I would, therefore, like to ask the hon. Minister as to how many disputes have been sent for adjudication under the Industrial Disputes Act during the last 10, 15 or 20 years and whether any decision has been taken in those cases? What was the necessity to send these demands to Labour Commissioner so urgently? It means that the Government do not want to solve the problems of the workers. I want to submit that the workload of the workers has increased considerably. It is correct that you are prepared to pay interim relief to them, but you are linking it with the production. I would like to know as to how a worker can run 16 looms instead of 8 looms? It means that one man is doing the work of two men, but getting salary of

one man only. So, how far is it justified? For the satisfaction of the workers you have given an interim relief of Rs. 100, but your price index is increasing continuously. You should, therefore, pay according to the price index. You have stated in your statement running into two pages that an interim relief of Rs. 100 per month has been sanctioned to the workers.

I would like to know as to what action have you taken on strike notice? On 4.7.1986 a joint formula worked out by the Chief Commissioner of Labour of the Delhi Administration, NTC management and two Workers Unions, was sent to you, but you have not so far taken any decision on that. N.T.C. is a Government undertaking and if the Chief Labour Commissioner and N.T.C. have prepared a formula in agreement with the Labour Unions and sent it to you on 4.7.86, then why have you not taken any action on that till today? Is it not the duty of the Government or that of the Textile Corporation to accept it and set an example for the other mills? The formula has been worked out by the Chief Labour Commissioner and the National Textile Corporation and has also been accepted by the workers but the Central Government have not accepted it so far. Why do you not take decision on it?

The strike has been going on for the last 63 days resulting in a loss of Rs. 1.5 crores in the form of Excise duty, Rs. 63 crores by way of production loss. A large number of mandays have already been lost and labour has lost Rs. 3 crores by way of wages. Who is responsible for this loss? You could have helped in this matter, but you are not helping them, which is not a good thing. Why are you hesitating in accepting a formula which has been put before you. N.T.C. is a Central Government undertaking and has taken a decision, why do you not implement that decision then? I want to know as to why the Government are not taking any action on this formula?

Besides I would also like to submit that the cost of land of all the textile mills situated in Ahmedabad, Bombay, Delhi or other metropolitan cities, has been skyrocketing and as a result of it, it has become the policy of these mills to collect money

by disposing of the land of the mills, In this regard I would like to refer to a statement of our hon. Colleague, Late Lalit Makan, made by him in this very House on May 2, while speaking on a Calling Attention motion on DCM. I read out the statement given by Shri Abdul Ghafoor while speaking on Calling Attention motion!

[English]

The Minister of works and Housing Shri Abdul Ghafoor said:

“It was strange that such an important decision was taken by the DDA without taking the Works and Housing Ministry into confidence”.

He felt there was something fishy in it.

[Translation]

The DDA has granted permission to one textile mill of DCM group in Delhi to sell its 63 acres of land. Regarding that permission, Shri Abdul Ghafoor had made this statement. The Central Government had made certain changes against the DDA and an Enquiry Commission under the Chairmanship of one Shri Pradeep, Under Secretary, was appointed. Is the appointment of such a Commission proper? The present market value of that land is Rs. 800 crores. Permission has been granted by the DDA to dispose of the land. What are the details of the report of that Commission? The Commission has been appointed, but nothing has been said about its report. It is merely an eyewash. What had happened to the Committee which was set up for these mills? The mill-owners have been paid money thrice to shift the mill on Bara Hindu Rao Mill road and have purchased land from the Government. What had happened to the enquiry report about the proposed sale of 63 acres of land? In addition to it, I would like to say that in 1950, 100 acres of land was allotted by the Government to this mill situated in 63 acres of land, to shift it elsewhere, but the mill was not shifted and instead a chemical industry was set up there. In addition to it, in 1970, the Uttar Pradesh Government had allotted 100 acres of land to shift this mill, but instead of shifting it, they have set up a new mill of 400 looms on that land.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already exhausted the time. Please wind up. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: What is the reason behind all these things? When the D.D.A. granted permission...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot go on making so much speech. Please wind up. Next, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am not making so much speech. It is a question of 20,000 labour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever clarifications you wanted to put, you put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : It is a very important matter involving thousands of persons. I want to know the details of the investigation report of the committee as stated in the statement of Shri Abdul Ghafoor on behalf of the Central Government. The second thing which has been mentioned in its examination is-‘subject to the condition of the Central Government’s clearance’. How is it that the permission has not been cancelled upto now, even though the Central Government have refused to give clearance on 15.4.85. Why has the D.O. letter issued by D.D.A. to D.C.M. for the sale of 63 acres of land not been cancelled upto now? When the matter was taken to the High Court and the Supreme Court, the Hon Lt. Governor has stated that he will consider the case. On the one hand the matter is being pursued in the High Court and on the other hand 20,000 labourers are jobless and are starving. You would be surprised to know that despite the Court, the Government and the D.D.A. the mill spread in an area of 63 acra has been closed.

(Interruptions)

[*Sh. C. Janga Reddy*]

Even today there is an advertisement in the papers about the construction of residential apartments. This is in today's paper...

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next, Shri Geeta Mukherjee Nothing Will go on recor). That is all. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have already called her name. Whatever he said, nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't waste the time of the House. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

You are wasting all the time unnecessarily, Mr. Janga Reddy. Now Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee will speak.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (*Panskura*) : I have read carefully and also heard the hon. Minister for Labour on this strike. I am really sorry to read and hear the statement of on such a big strike by 20,000 workers for 60 days, just like a clerk giving some details. I thought the Labour Minister at least will show some concern for these 20,000 workers.

Anyway, in this clerical description, these are very many things about which I want to seek clarification and I will go one after the other and I will not take much time. This is my appeal to you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Five Minutes.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : You have to give all the time because very important points have been involved in this strike. Interim relief for these workers which they wanted—mind it - this does not belong to any single Party of any single hue. Beginning from AITUC, INTUC, CITU and BMS, all political opinions are involved. Why so

much ? The point here is this interim relief was earlier given in other cities, after the expiry of the earlier agreement. It was given in Bombay, in Kanpur but in Delhi these mills are run by Birlas and DCMs and unfortunately one of them is NTC unit. There, it seems to be a unison law now that this interim relief cannot be given unless it is related to productivity. This is a very moot question. Does productivity depend on the worker alone ? Can you tell me ? This is why the workers cannot make it absolutely proportional to productivity. This is a big question, of trade union movement that is being put here. But this is once again reiterated in this paper.

I would like to point out and also ask the hon. Minister whether it is true that the strength of the work force in this statutory industry in Delhi has fallen to 5,000 since the beginning of the 79 agreement, dwindling from over 25,000 to less than 20,000 today ? There is 5,000 fall in the strength of the workers. But is it true that the value of the turn-over has gone up substantially during the same period, as for example, over 59% in case of DCM, where the labour laws have been misused but, at the same time, the workers are made to increase productivity ? If it is so, they should pay them now. There is no question of any dilly-dallying or shilly-shallying on this. This interim relief should have been relatively given on the strength of it. But, under the pressure of the employers, the Government has agreed to go to the adjudication on the strength of these things.

Therefore, I would like to know whether these things are true and whether the real purpose of introducing productivity item will serve any purpose. I would like to know the particular role of the NTC mill because, after all, here NTC Mill says that it cannot give you any further. Why cannot you give the best terms ?

With regard to the question of productivity in the NTC Mill, in 53 mills it has been already granted that there should be some kind of workers' participation and in those Councils that have been set up in other areas but not in those Delhi textile mills, wide steps are to be taken up with wide powers ; that itself deals with productivity. A lot of approach on behalf of the workers' own

increasing productivity is there. It is discussed and good results are shown. That is not there in NTC mill. If you were really concerned about the productivity in the NTC mill, may I ask how is it that the Delhi's NTC mill has given a sub-contract to another mill owner who has a processing plant for the yarn or cloth while NTC itself has its own processing plant which is being kept idle and this is being given to a private industrialist? Is this the way of increasing productivity? If workers are to be blamed, what is the management doing? Here in Delhi, as it is clear, the work strength has gone down and the turn-over has gone up. Naturally it is the management of the owners who are to be blamed.

So far, the Government have gone in for adjudication. The Hon Labour Minister is having talks after talks. But as I understand, really speaking, this involves not only this Ministry, but this also involves the Finance Ministry, this involves the Ministry of Public Enterprises—because the Bureau of Public Enterprises is headed by a Minister of State for Public Enterprises—and then again, this also concerns the Ministry of Industries. What I would like to know is whether really you are going to take any step in a big way, so that these three Ministers and the Joint Action Committee leaders along with others would sit to settle this issue of strike immediately, so that this big strike can be over peacefully and with the protection of workers interest. They have given many formulae, I do not want to repeat. I would like to know whether you are going to take such initiative. If so, by what time? Already 53 days have passed, it is high time that you did something.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. Actually the textile industry is the oldest industry in our country. As many as 13 lakh people are involved in this industry all over the country. Unfortunately whether it is in Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Kanpur or Ahmedabad, the textile workers are facing a lot of problems.

They have been crushed by the mill-owners. They are being crushed here also. I do not know the reasons why the Central Government are showing soft corner towards the owners. After all, a small request is there,

They want hike because of the hike in prices. They are asking for interim relief, they are asking for house rent allowance to be raised; they are asking for the employees' pension or regularisation of their services and withdrawal of the police cases. All these are small problems. For giving hundred rupees interim relief you are linking it with the productivity.

We are also raising salaries for the Government employees, salaries of the employees in the public sector. Are we linking that with productivity? Actually the production has gone up, as my friend has said. The production is actually going up. That should not be linked with the productivity. They are playing some mischief; there is a drama behind it.

Actually the mill-owners want to sell away these lands and construct some big hotel or big industry and want to make money out of this. The Government should take up this issue. The Government should acquire the land for the public purposes. They should allot the land in the outskirts of the cities. Then only you can get land for the construction of the houses. The employees can build their own houses. They can solve all the problems. But they cannot do that because they want to diversify their industries from textile to some other industry. In this diversification, Government's big hand is there. They are getting hundreds of crores for selling this land. Some middleman is acting on their behalf. The hon. Minister has made a very vague statement. It does not contain any assurance. Where was the urgency for the DDA to go in for adjudication? When are they going to solve this problem? Can they solve it immediately? Already 53 days have gone and you are sitting calmly. It is not the duty of the Government to safeguard the interests of the workers? I wonder what for the Government is there. When the workers are dying outside you are sitting calmly. You are supporting the owners and big landlords. Instead of appointing some commissioner, why don't personally take it up? Why does the Labour Minister not personally take it up with them? If you are really interested in the working class you call a meeting of all the leaders of various labour organisations. It is only then that some solution can

[*Sh. M. Raghuma Reddy*]

emerge. If you were interested, you could have done it. You are only indulging into dilatory tactics. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take up the issue personally and call a meeting of leaders of all the labour organisations and thus solve this issue. These are small problems. Do not link up increase in salary with increase in production. It cannot be done. Increase in productivity does not depend only on the labour class. It also depends on various other socio-economic factors.

I would request you take up this issue on priority basis. I want also to reiterate that you should acquire the entire land in the cities whether in Bombay or elsewhere and allot Government land outside the city in lieu of this. They can build the mills as well as quarters for the workers with the compensation amount that they will get. I would also like to suggest some measures should also be taken for the re-organisation of the private textile mills or the Government may take over all the private textile mills.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply of the Government to the Calling Attention Motion indicates that the Government are pursuing an anti-labour policy. Textiles industry is our pioneer industry. About 13 lakh workers are engaged in this industry. The reply given by the Government indicates that they are not bothered at all about the 20000 striking workers. The Government are not paying any attention to end the strike. The workers have been trapped and the Government says that though negotiations were held, but agreement could not be reached. This all shows that the Government's claim to be pro-labour is totally false. Due to unsympathetic attitude of the Government, 20000 workers are jobless. These workers are not getting even the interim relief which is being paid at all places. The labour force is the backbone of the country and they should not be ignored. Everyone knows that if an agreement is reached with the workers, the decrease in production will stop and the national income will not be lost. Today, because of this

labour strike, our economy is weakening. The Government are trying to solve the problem even after knowing all these facts. At some places, it has been seen that the managers are planning to dispose of the machinery, though it had been imported from Germany and is still in working condition. You can see this in the case of Gaya Cotton Mill which is under the Government's control. Whether it is the private sector or public sector, the same thing is happening. The Government are also behaving like the big capitalists. If the capitalist group raises question that the mill is running in losses, then the Government are prepared to compensate the loss by providing financial assistance or rebate in income tax.

Today, the workers who are on strike have no arrangements for their residence. If instead of selling the land, the mill owners build quarters for the workers, then the labour can help to have maximum production which will strengthen our national economy. I will request the Government, which claims to be pro-labour, to take steps, first of all, to end the strike and to pave the way for taking further step in the matter.

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV (Khar-gone): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the last many days, 20000 workers have been on strike. It is a matter of pleasure that the Government and the Lt. Governor are trying to sort out this matter, but despite all this, it seems that the management is taking no initiative to solve the problem. It is very unfortunate that the management of mills in an area like Delhi area is adopting delaying tactics.

Our colleague Late Lalit Maken had made vigorous efforts to solve the problems of labour in Delhi. He struggled hard for quite a long time and many a time, he boldly stood for the cause of the labour. Now the situation is such that all of us and the Government have to take the problems of the labour very seriously. The demands of the labour are justified and in other parts of the country, these demands have already been accepted. It is a matter of pleasure, as I have been told just now that yesterday a meeting was held with the Finance Minister

in this connection and in that meeting, the Congress M.P., Shri Kumaramangalam had also participated. The M.Ps. from Delhi region have also raised this matter in very strong words. The Finance Minister has assured that urgent action will be taken to solve the problem by immediately calling a meeting of the Ministers of other departments in the near future. I do not want to go into details at this moment, but I would like to say only this much that their demands are justified. The demands put forward by them are very minor and the Government should take action in this matter seriously. It is a question of their survival. If we make a comparative study and analyse as to what the labour is being paid in Delhi and what the labour is getting in Bombay, it becomes clear that in comparison with the other parts of country, labour in Delhi is getting very meagre wages.

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What greater irony could be there than this that even the mill being run by N.T.C. is not accepting the demands of the workers and delaying the things. I want that the Finance Minister should take it seriously. The Government's recent efforts are laudable. The Finance Minister has taken a right step by initiating discussion on this matter. He has forced the big capitalists of the country to follow the right path. So, there is no doubt that he can soon control the big capitalists who are trying to deprive the labourers of their rights.

13.00 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this issue for discussion in this august House. I fully share the concern of the hon. Members regarding this continued strike in the textile mills in Delhi. I refute the allegation that we are not concerned with it and we are not taking this matter seriously... (*Interruptions*). Will you please listen to me? I have listened to you patiently. You are all trade union leaders and you know the Industrial Disputes Act. Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the appropriate Government for the textile industry is the State Government and in this case, it is the Delhi Administration which is the appropriate

Government. That is the law. This matter has to be sorted out by the Delhi Administration. The Delhi Administration tried its best. The matter was referred for adjudication. Out of eleven demands, six demands have been referred for adjudication. After that, the workers have served a notice for strike. At that point, the Lt. Governor himself intervened and tried to avert the strike (*Interruptions*). This is the effort he has made. After that the workers met me and though the matter lies with the Delhi Administration and not with the Central Government, yet I personally took initiative of convening an all-party meeting. Till today, we have spent 90 hours discussing with them. We have spent sometimes sleepless nights; the Lt. Governor has also been doing that. My role, the role of the Central Government, I must make it clear, is very limited to the extent of helping the Delhi Administration to reach a settlement. That is the legal position. But in spite of all that... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Why can't you change the law?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: You are an expert on industrial law. You should understand better my position... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No interruptions please. If you are not prepared to listen, I will adjourn the House.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: We have tried our best, but it is very unfortunate that in spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to reach a settlement. But as I stated in the main statement, the attitude of both the parties has softened now in matters relating to the interim relief. The workers in the beginning had demanded for Rs. 100. After our intense negotiations, they have come down. The workers have been very nice to come down to the level of Rs. 70 per month. That is the softening of the attitude. It is not that our efforts have not succeeded ... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Can I request the hon. Members to take their seats? Are you prepared to listen to the reply or not? I cannot allow you to speak like this. (*Interruptions*).

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay south Central): it is precisely because the adjudication will take five years or more...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: In spite of the fact that the matter stands referred to adjudication, this is how we have taken action.

(Interruptions)

DR. DATTA SAMANT: In another five years time it will be 1991. How much time are you taking?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEUPTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Samant, if you interrupt him like this, nothing will go on record. You are not in the list of the Calling Attention. So you cannot speak on that. I won't allow others to question him. It is a Calling Attention, you cannot speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I can assure the House that we have all sympathy for the workers. We want to solve the problems. There is no question of softening our attitude towards the owners. There is no question of doing any favour to them.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: There is one question

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow any one except the Members whose names are in the list of Calling Attention.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Sir,...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, You have already spoken. Let him reply first. Everybody is going on speaking. Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee, please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Please sit down. Since Madam has been very specific, I will clarify her Point first. Madam, you have placed a very specific question, whether productivity depends only on the workers. No. It does not depend on the workers alone. It depends on many other factors. This is point number one.

Secondly, you have asked me a question, whether employment has declined in Delhi Mills. Yes, it has declined. You said 5,000, I have no figure at the moment. The fact remains that employment has declined, I agree with you. And the reason given is, because of the closure of one of the Weaving Units of the Birla Textile Mill and because of the modernisation. It is also a fact that production has increased. But...

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Why but?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I am giving you the clarification. Employment has declined; production has gone up, but, I am saying but in your favour, the owners' contention is that they are going in a constant loss

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You always say...

*(Interruptions)***

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir 50 per cent of the money of the...

*(Interruptions)***

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Samant, you will get many more chances. Please don't intervene. Don't record.

*(Interruptions)***

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Government have always been sympathetic towards the workers and they have taken decisions in their interest I have a point of order.

*(Interruptions)***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No Point of Order. I cannot allow you.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I will conclude by saying that we are much concerned. The efforts are continuing and if you have seen today's newspaper some Members have already referred to it the Finance Minister himself has agreed to call a meeting to sort out this problem. I can assure the House that we will try out best to see that the settlement is reached.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We adjourn for lunch and we will re-assemble at 14.05 hrs.

13.09 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Nine Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now item 12 Shri H K. L. Bhagat.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : With Your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 21st July, 1986, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Ordinance, 1986 and consideration and passing of the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 1986.
3. Discussion on the 35th Report of the Union Public Service Commission.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : The following matter may be included in the Government business next week.

The East Coast is now dotted with a series of Medium Ports right from Port of Haldia in West Bengal to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. The Bay of Bengal is linked to the hinterland of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh through Haldia, Paradeep, Gopalpur and Visakhapatnam.

The East Coast Railway line is now serving the major steel plants, ancillary industries and the rich mining belts and collieries. The steel plants served are Bokaro, Tata, Rourkela, Bhilai etc. The iron ore, coal besides the aluminium and bauxite deposits, the other raw materials and finished products are carried by this railway system.

This entails heavy traffic load on the railway. To develop the tourist trade and also relieve pressure on the single line railway from Calcutta to Visakhapatnam, I suggest that coastal steamer service between Haldia and Visakhapatnam via Paradip and Gopalpur be introduced.

The costal marine transport will be able to cater to industrial Beeds of Orissa and other States.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subject may be included in the list of business for the next week:-

The recent judgement of the American Court to file the suit in India regarding gas tragedy of Bhopal on the midnight of 2nd and 3rd December, 1984 has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. After this judgement, the Government of India have not given any indication as to what further action would be taken in the matter.

This uncertainty is very painful for the citizens of Bhopal. Although the harm done in the past is over, yet it is becoming very difficult to check the present and the future losses. Every citizen's power of resistance has More or less gone down.