

517. Statement by Minister AGRAHAYANA 6, 1914 (SAKA) Doordarshan staff 518  
Situation arising out of agitation by disrupting work of media and steps  
taken by Govt. to resolve the issue.

13.02 1/2 hrs

PETITION RE. PROBLEMS OF  
CONTRACT WORKERS WORKING IN  
THE SOUTH EASTERN COAL FIELDS  
LTD.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I  
beg to present a petition signed by Shri  
Raghu Thakur, Acting President, Koyla  
Kamgar Panchayat, Jahangirabad, Bhopal  
regarding problems of contract workers  
working in the South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

13. 03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of the Agitation  
by the Doordarshan Staff Disrupting the  
work of the Media and the steps taken  
by the Govt. to resolve the issue  
Involved

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROAD-  
CASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): A small  
number of the Doordarshan Production Staff  
(mainly of Delhi and Calcutta) calling  
themselves the Joint Action Council had  
resorted to agitation in the form of 'cease to  
work' for three days from 15th to 17th  
September, 1992 and 'work to rule' with  
effect from 18.9.92 to press for acceptance  
of their demands. This is an unregistered/  
unrecognised union formed only in July,  
1992 claiming membership of about 2500  
out of almost 35000 staff and employees of  
AIR and Doordarshan.

The Minister of Information Broad-  
casting, Secretary and Director General,  
Doordarshan spent considerable time talking  
to the representatives of the Programme  
Production Staff listening to their points of  
view and explaining the Government's  
position. The Government assured them  
that it will consider all their reasonable

demands fairly and their genuine grievances/  
demands would be resolved expeditiously.  
An appeal was made by Minister Information  
& Broadcasting to the staff that they should  
withdraw their agitation to Create an amicable  
atmosphere for discussions on their  
demands. Thereafter, the Staff decided to  
"postpone" their agitation. The Government  
immediately formed a committee consisting  
of 6 members under the Chairmanship of  
Shri K.A. Varadan, Additional Secretary to  
go into the matter and report by 30.12.1992.  
The committee has started hearing the  
employees.

They, however in, relaunched their  
agitation with effect from 12. 10. 92 in the  
form of "work to rule" which, effect, means  
that they will work only during 10.00 A.M. to  
5. 00 P.M. prescribed for general duty office  
staff, and not in the pattern hitherto being  
followed since the inception of Doordarshan.  
All appeal and assurances made by Minister  
Information & Broadcasting, Secretary and  
Director General, Doordarshan have failed  
to elicit any positive response on part of the  
staff so far, and they have been continuing  
with their "work to rule" agitation.

In the meantime, discussions were held  
with leaders of the agitating staff at various  
levels, including that of Minister Information  
& Broadcasting. In fact, five meetings have  
been taken by Minister Information &  
Broadcasting and Secretary with the agitating  
staff from a number of meetings held by  
Director General, Doordarshan to assure  
them that all their reasonable demands would  
be considered objectively. It has also been  
explained to them that action has already  
been initiated on a few of their demands  
which pertain to their service matters.

While the Government has all along  
been avoiding any direct confrontation with  
the agitating Production Staff, the agitators  
have, in some specific cases, resorted to  
misbehaviour /deliberate and willful  
infringement to discharge of official duties by  
those who are. Incidents are discussed in  
brief in the following paragraphs:-

(i) On the first day of the agitation i.e.,