

14.12 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENTS
DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDA-
TIONS OF TRIBUNALS FOR WORK-
ING JOURNALIST AND NON-JOUR-
NALIST NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES**

**THE MINISTER OF PLANNING
AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN
DUTT TIWARI):** In reply to a Calling
Attention Notice the Minister of State
for Labour had made a Statement in
the Rajya Sabha on 21st November,
1980, regarding the recommendations
of the Tribunals for Working Journal-
ists and non-Journalist Newspaper
Employees. During the discussion
that followed I had assured that House
that the decisions of Government on
the recommendations would be taken
and announced in the Parliament
within the current Session. I am
glad to inform the House that Gov-
ernment have since taken a decision
in that regard.

The House is aware of the circum-
stances under which the Tribunals
were set up. As already reported to
the House the final recommendations
of the Tribunals were received by
Government on 13th August, 1980. The
Tribunals had earlier in February,
1980, published certain tentative pro-
posals. In their final report the Tribu-
nals have made changes over the ten-
tative proposals which led to
some controversy. Some of the
changes made appeared to deny
the workers even the protection of the
existing benefits to which they are
entitled under the Act. Government
have, therefore, found it necessary to
make some modifications in the
recommendations.

In the fitment rules the Tribunals
have stated that their recommenda-
tions would not affect the terms and
conditions on which additional emo-
luments were granted and that addi-
tional allowances should be treated
as personal pay to be absorbed in
future increments of the revised pay
scales. The additional emoluments
are those granted by newspaper estab-
lishment as a result of collective bar-
gaining in the form of additional

basic wage, dearness allowance or in-
terim relief. Additional allowances
are the monthly payments not relat-
ed to any specific purpose which are
not to be adjusted against any revi-
sion of pay or dearness allowance.
Government do not see any justifica-
tion for making a distinction between
additional emoluments and additional
allowances. The employees have ob-
jected to the additional allowances
being treated as personal pay to be
absorbed in future increments. It has,
therefore, been decided to modify the
recommendations to the effect that
existing rights in respect of additional
allowances should be protected. This
modification is intended to give effect
to the protection conferred by Section
16 of the Act which safeguards more
favourable conditions of service.

The Tribunal have recommended
that where an employee is fitted into a
scale in accordance with the fitment
rules as on the relevant date he shall
be entitled to increments as from that
date. The employees have represent-
ed that all future increments be paid
on the same dates on which they
are payable at present. It has been
decided to modify the recommenda-
tions accordingly and to provide that
all future increments would be paid
on the same dates on which they are
payable at present.

The Tribunals have recommended
House Rent Allowance at rates rang-
ing from 3 per cent to 8 per cent to
the employees of Classes II and higher
establishments. In the case of estab-
lishments who are exempted from pay-
ment of House Rent Allowance it has
been recommended that employees who
are already drawing allowance would
continue to draw the same and further
that the recommendations would not
affect the rates of house rent allow-
ance if the same are higher than those
recommended. There is however, an
ambiguity in the report as to whether
the protection of the existing rights
in respect of house rent allowance is
applicable to employees of the news
agencies. It has, therefore, been

decided to clarify that the existing quanta of benefits of the employees of the news agencies in this regard would also be protected as they are entitled to the same under Section 16 of the Act.

The Tribunals have recommended that the new variable dearness allowance will vary with every rise or fall of six points in the Consumer Price Index Numbers (1960=100) half yearly at rates ranging from Rs. 5/- to Rs. 11/- depending on wage slabs. In this connection it may be noted that the Tribunals in their tentative proposals had proposed higher D.A. rates. It has been proposed to modify the recommendations regarding the dearness allowance so as to provide for a uniform rate of Rs. 1.30 per point shift in the Consumer Price Index, variable quarterly. This modification would seek to raise the rates in respect of the lower wage slabs and make them more equitable.

According to Section 12 of the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be, after receipt of the recommendations from the Tribunals, make an order in terms of the recommendations or subject to such modifications as it thinks fit. If the Central Government wish to make modifications which effect "important alterations in the character of the recommendations" the persons likely to be affected thereby are to be given notice and the representations which they may make in writing should be taken into account or the recommendations have to be referred back to the Tribunals.

In the opinion of Government the modifications except the one relating to D.A. formula will not affect "important alterations in the character of the recommendations". The change proposed in the D.A. formula may be construed as a major modification. It is, therefore, proposed to give notice to the persons concerned of the proposed modification giving them time

of 30 days to submit representations should they wish to do so. The decision of Government regarding the D.A. formula will be announced after examining the representations, if any.

The Tribunal have recommended that every part-time correspondent should be paid not less than 1/3 of the basic wage plus D.A. applicable to a full time correspondent. In addition, the Tribunal have recommended payment on column basis to part-time correspondents of newspapers. Apprehensions have been expressed that if the recommendations relating to part-time correspondents are accepted it may result in large scale retrenchment. Government have, however, decided to accept the recommendations in full. Government trust that the apprehensions referred to above would prove to be unjustified and that there would be no retrenchment consequent on the acceptance of this recommendation. Should this contingency arise, the Government would have to consider as to what steps are necessary to avert this consequence.

All other recommendations of the Tribunals have been accepted as they are.

Government orders as required under Section 12(3) of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, to give effect to the decisions of the Government will be issued very soon.

Considering the fact that revision of wage structure of employees of the newspaper industry has been long overdue and it has been delayed for various reasons, it is hoped that the decisions of Government will be duly accepted by all parties concerned and implemented without further delay.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY
(Bombay North East): Sir, I have to ask a question of a clarificatory nature. Please refer to Rule 355. I

[Dr. Subramaniam Swamy]

would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the representations come, whether he himself would look into them and negotiate with the Union. I am not making it a discussion. I am only asking a question. Under rule 355, this has been allowed in the past. The other day, in the Rajya Sabha, when the Prime Minister made a statement, a discussion was allowed. I want to know whether the level of negotiations will be at the Minister's level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rule 355 says:

"When, for the purposes of explanation during discussion or for any other sufficient reason, any member has occasion to ask a question of another member on any matter then under the consideration of the House, he shall ask the question through the Speaker."

Now, this is not a discussion. I am sorry there is no sufficient reason ... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Earlier vital matters of this kind had been discussed. This is the last day of the session. I cannot bring up this matter in any other manner. We are only asking what is due to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In my opinion, it is not due, it may be due in your opinion. I am sorry.

14.20 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377—
Contd.

(iii) NEED TO INCREASE NUMBER OF RAIL SERVICES IN UJJAIN AND INDORE DIVISION OF WESTERN RAILWAY.

श्री सत्यनारायण उदिया (उज्जैन): सभापति महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर ध्यान दिलाता हूँ :

इन्दौर-देवास-उज्जैन मध्य प्रदेश के प्रमुख औद्योगिक नगर हैं। प्रति दिन हजारों यात्री इन्दौर-उज्जैन तथा उज्ज

इन्दौर के बीच यातायात करते हैं। इन में अनेक लोग नौकरी करने वाले भी हैं जिन्हें 11 बजे आफिस पहुंचना होता है। किन्हीं को उज्जैन से उच्च न्यायालय (बैंड पीठ) इन्दौर जाना होता है। उज्जैन तथा इन्दौर में संभ्रम आयुक्त के मुख्यालय भी हैं। अधिकारियों, कर्मचारियों, व्यक्तियों-व्यापारियों तथा ग्राम जनता की यह मांग है कि प्रातः 9 बजे उज्जैन से इन्दौर के बीच कम दूरी के मीटर गेज रास्ते से एक एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन चल कर प्रातः साढ़े दस बजे तक इन्दौर पहुंच जाय तथा शाम साढ़े पांच बजे इन्दौर से चल कर 7 बजे तक उज्जैन आ जाय। इस के साथ ही इन्दौर, दिल्ली तथा इन्दौर-बम्बई के बीच सीधी रेल सेवा उपलब्ध करायी जाय। अहमदाबाद-रतलाम तथा लखनऊ-कोटा यात्री गाड़ियों को क्रमशः उज्जैन तथा रतलाम तक बढ़ाया जाय। सर्वोदय एक्सप्रेस का स्टोपेज नागदा जंक्शन पर दिया जाय जिस में कि उज्जैन के लिए 20 शायिकाओं का आरक्षण है। किन्तु स्टोपेज नहीं होने के कारण यात्री इस सुविधा से वंचित हैं। नागदा जंक्शन पर नागदा मंडी तथा बिरला ग्राम औद्योगिक नगर को ओवर ब्रिज से जोड़ कर दुर्घटनाओं को रोका जावे। माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन सब बातों से संभागीय रेल प्रबन्धक रतलाम, पश्चिम रेलवे के प्रमुख प्रबन्धक (जनरल मैनेजर) को तथा रेल मंत्रालय को अवगत कराया गया है। किन्तु इन समस्याओं पर न तो प्रशासन ने न ही रेल मंत्रालय ने ध्यान दिया है। इतना ही नहीं रेल प्रशासन को लिखे गए पत्रों का समय पर तथा समुचित उत्तर तत्परता से नहीं दिया गया है। इस लगातार उपेक्षा के कारण तथा क्षेत्र की जनता को रेल सुविधाओं के अभाव के कारण व्यापक असंतोष है। मेरा माननीय रेल मंत्री जी से आग्रह है कि वे इन समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए रेल प्रशासन को आवश्यक निर्देश दे कर यात्रियों को सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करावें।