

(Shri Santosh Mohan Dev)

like to draw the attention of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter.

On 24th April, 1984, non-journalists' union resorted to a wild cat strike which they later converted to an indefinite strike. It was undeclared and totally illegal. Even the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the State Labour Minister think so. But the union leaders have ignored their advice. A small faction is deliberately blocking the way to a solution. There is a stalemate now. The unions says that unless their 19 point demands are met immediately, they would not budge. The management's view is that the illegal strike must first be vacated and then talks could start. The papers Ananda Bazar Patrika, Telegraph, Business Standard, Sunday, Desh and other are not being published. The strike has been opposed by ninety percent of the employees of the organisation and all the journalists, unions in West Bengal. Yet a militant minority body has imposed a strike on all others.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN You may differ from him, but let him make the statement.

SHRI SONTASH MOHAN DEV : No paper in Calcutta published the news of this strike in India's second largest group of newspapers under pressure from their unions. Even AIR and TV did not broadcast the news.

Five journalists and one officer have been beaten up by the militant union people .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a forum to make allegations against each other.

Only the approved version will go on record.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : A few months ago, this union gave a strike call. But it did not materialise because of tremendous popular protest against this move. Now this union has completely throlled the press by staging an illegal wild-cat strike. Here is a case when the freedom of the press is threatened by irresponsible trade unionism.

There is no doubt that the union wants to prevent the papers from coming out till forthcoming bye-elections to the State assembly are over as reports in the Ananda Bazar Patrika may ruin their electrical prospects in the bye-elections.

The strike has caused 1600 workers jobless. I demand a statement from Government on this illegal strike in Calcutta on Ananda Patrika Group. Government also should intervene immediately.

(xii) Chaotic Conditions in Trains because of inadequate Infrastructure

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Of late, a chaotic situation has developed in the

running of express and passenger trains particularly the summer specials. As is well-known, many new trains have been introduced in recent period. Also a large number of summer specials are ordered to be run in this summer. But all these have been done without adequate infrastructure.. Already there is serious dearth of coaches throughout the Indian Railways. Running of new trains and summer specials without sufficient number of coaches only reduces the size of trains and increase the troubles and problems of passengers. There are instances at Howrah that without any notice, a ten-bogie train is halved and turned into a train of five coaches. Passengers who have even confirmed booking and reservation are asked to take refund and go home. Some times, AC II tier bogies are replaced by IIInd Class and III tier and passengers have to face untold suffering.

The Government must immediately take note of this chaotic situation on the Railway front in running of trains and the Railways Minister should take immediate steps to put an end to this chaotic order on the Railways.

(xiii) Need to amend the Sixth Schedule of Constitution to enable Tripura Government to constitute Tribal Autonomous District Council

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : People of Tripura have been persistently demanding establishment of Tripura Autonomous District

Council for which relentless mass movement was conducted in the past. At last in 1979, the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous Distt. Council Act was passed and in 1980, the Autonomous Distt. Council established by the left Front Government. But the said Council has been established under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and actual demand of the people of Tripura is to extend Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to Tripura so that the Council should get more power for economic and social development of the tribal people of the State. The State Government has no power to constitute the Tribal Autonomous Distt. Council under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and it is for the Central Government to amend the Constitution for extending Sixth Schedule to Tripura. Tripura Upajati Ganamukti Parisad has collected 1 lakh mass signature and submitted to the Prime Minister, demanding the same. The Chief Minister of Tripura requested the Central Government again and again for amending the Constitution for this purpose and the Central Government had also assured to fulfil the aspiration of the people of Tripura. The extension of Sixth Schedule will help to create an atmosphere for further strengthening the unity and communal harmony between the tribals and non-tribals in the State and fight against the extremists and secessionist forces and uphold the integrity of the nation. I urge upon the Government to bring forward a bill in the Parliament in this regard.