

(Shri Samar Mukherjee)

the demands by the respective departments but to no effect as yet. But the Union Government cannot, in fact, deny its responsibilities. The responsibility for the exorbitant rise in prices obviously lies with the Central Government. Similarly the Central Government have to act for implementing a national formula of D.A. neutralising the rise in prices about repealing NSA and all other anti-workers legislations. A dozen of union activists in J & K State still remain out of service. The Government Servants' Conduct Rules framed by the British colonialists in the first decade of this century continue to shackle the Government employees and debar them from trade union and democratic rights except in West Bengal where the left Front Government have completely scrapped it last year and have granted full trade union and democratic rights to the employees. All India State Government Employees' Federation is the only national organisation of the State Government employees but have not got recognition. So, this unsympathetic and stoic attitude of the Union Government towards the problems of this huge mass of working peoples is causing deep discontent among them.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to implement the just demands of the 5 million State Government employees without any further delay.

(viii) COMMUNAL RIOTS IN BIHAR-SHARIF

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponani): It is most unfortunate that a communal riot has now flared up in Biharsharif. A few days back, it was Nagina near Bijnor in U.P. that was rocked by communal riot. In Biharsharif, the four-day-old riot has spread to rural and suburban areas of this town in Nalanda District. Violence has with passage of time spread to Jamalichok, Mxananpur, Bakra, Pulani and several other areas around

Biharsharif. There is widespread violence, loot and arson. Even people attending a burial were injured when a group opened fire upon them. More than 19 persons have been killed and a large number injured even according to reported official figures.

The immediate need is restoration of law and order. There is panic among the minority community. Let the Central Government give every aid to the State in maintenance of peace. The unfortunate victims deserve every help. Let compensation be paid and complete rehabilitation be carried out. It is absolutely necessary that the anti-social elements indulging into violence be dealt with severely, without, however, harassment of the innocent.

Circumstances and the spread of the violence clearly point towards the failure of intelligence and the law-enforcing authorities. This aspect, too, must be fully and satisfactorily enquired into and action taken.

I also urge upon the hon. Home Minister to make a statement in the House.

15.00 hrs.

(ix) INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN BANGALORE
BASED PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): The 77-day long strike of the workers of Bangalore-based public sector undertakings was called off on 12-3-81 in response to the appeals made by the Chief Minister of Karnataka and leaders of all political parties in the State Assembly. The Chief Minister gave an assurance that if the strike was called off, he would persuade the Central Government to resume negotiations for a fair settlement of the dispute.

Although nearly 8 weeks have passed since the strike was called of.

during which period the workers' representatives met the Chief Minister several times, and also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister on 2-4-81 at Bangalore airport during her brief stop-over there, it is deplorable that there has been no response from the Government side for resumption of negotiations. This attitude of the Government is making the workers restive once again, and may lead to further deterioration, in industrial relations in the public sector units concerned.

In these circumstances, the Joint Action Front was forced to take a decision to launch an indefinite hunger strike at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Delhi by the Joint convenors and other important office bearers of the concerned unions. The said hunger strike commenced from 29-4-81 and is continuing since then. One of the locations of the hunger strike is at the Boat Club here in the Capital. The physical condition of some of the hunger strikers is deteriorating.

I urge upon the Government to give up its unreasonably rigid and anti-labour attitude and I appeal to the Prime Minister to announce an early date for starting discussions with the JAF representatives, which would enable them to withdraw the hunger strike. The JAF leaders are anxious to restore conditions of normalcy and healthy industrial relations as soon as possible. But their patience and all their representations are being rebuffed by the adamant refusal of Government even to sit down and discuss the workers' grievances across the table. If the Government insists on keeping the doors of negotiations closed, it would have to bear the responsibility for creating further unrest and frustration among the 1,25,000 workers of such important plants as BEL, BML, HAL, HMT, ITI, EDL, ECIL and MIDHANI.

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15.03 hrs.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL
—Contd.,

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we will take up further consideration of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): As you know, on the last occasion I was pointing out that the Bill which we are considering now at this vital stage, was the outcome of certain differences of opinion between the Minister himself and the ONGC. The difference arose on the ONGC's assumption that they could raise the production of Bombay High upto the limit of 17 million tonnes without foreign collaboration. But the Minister was insisting and I quoted that day from some respectable economic journals also, that the ONGC should give in writing and be prepared to face the consequences if they stand in the way of his functioning. In this background, the Bill is here. The Bill authorise the Government to terminate the appointment of any Member of the Board without assigning any reasons. That is the crucial point. In this connection I would say that the Government wants to have a legislation of this nature only to ease out certain Members in the Board presumably because of their fault of advising the Government keeping in view the interest of the country and the technological know-how and talent of our scientists. The scientists should have that liberty to advise the Government as to how their talents are to be taken advantage of. If the Government feels that their advice is not to the liking of the Government, or the powers that be, it would not be right to ease them out. It is not only undemocratic, please allow me to say that it is anti-national approach. The ONGC scientists say that they can take up all the production without any