

13.50 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) REDUCTION IN WELFARE LEVY AND GENERAL LEVY ON DOCK ON DOCK LABOUR BOARD, MADRAS.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central): The Welfare Levy and General Levy on the Dock Labour Board, Madras, has been reduced further by Government of India. This Levy is being reduced year after year on the ground that there are surplus funds available. It would be a wonder that the funds accumulated even for welfare fund are not spent in full leading to surplus. I can assure that many welfare measures for the workers are not even attempted; leave alone implemented. Even the ongoing welfare measures are not implemented properly. Is there any end for the welfare measures to the workers in the Madras Port Dock Labour Board? Canteen for the workers could be run. Free transport could be made available to workers from the place of call point and back; even free transport could be made available from different places to the workspots. Residential buildings could be built for all the workers. Wholesale food could be supplied at a reasonable, subsidised cost. All benefits could be extended to the casual and temporary workers. Attendance allowance could be given to the casual workers. There is no need for any reduction in the existing Levy. I fear that the administration is acting in connivance with the trade in reducing the Levy, depriving the legitimate share due to the workers and their welfare measures. I request the Government of India to study the implications in totality and restore the rights of the workers. The Government should encourage the implementation of the welfare measures in right earnest and stop the trade from exploiting the workers, who are toiling day and night for the growth of the Madras Port Trust. The Ex-gratia paid wrongly during the Centenary year of the Madras Port, to the workers of the Dock Labour Board could be adjusted from the Welfare Fund. If the administration functioned properly, in the right

way, there could not be any surplus in the Welfare Fund etc. of the Madras Dock Labour Board. Proposals for reduction of levy have been approved by the Government of India on 11-3-82 within eight days of its receipt. The same eagerness, hurry, speed, have not been shown in deciding and disbursing the centenary gift of Rs. 750/- in lumpsum without any deductions to the Madras Port Trust workers, even though the Centenary itself has ended.

I request justice should be rendered to the workers of the Madras Port in right earnest without any further delay.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, in spite of only three speakers on the Calling Attention, we have been cemented to our seats for two hours. Is that not a record? I would like to know.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is because it is with regard to cement.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I think Atalji's oratory also kept us spell bound for some time.

(Interruptions)

(ii) ASSISTANCE BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF DACOITY-INFESTED AREAS OF MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN AND UTTAR PRADESH.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): The dacoity problem in spite of intensified police activity is still a major scourge. It has been dramatically highlighted by the recent dastardly and murderous attack on Justice C.S.P. Singh, elder brother of the U. P. Chief Minister which culminated in his death along with his son. This intensified police activity and the deployment of BSF in the dacoity-infested districts of Gwalior-Chambal Division of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, however, represent only the curative aspect of the anti-dacoity