

to resume negotiations, even on whatever you had offered on that basis you are going to resume negotiations, even the hunger strike would not have started. I have visited all the hunger strikers at Bangalore on 29th and they had categorically said that their hunger strike is only for the resumption of negotiations. And if you had clarified this position, there would have been no hunger strike and there would have been no demonstration at all. Even at this stage please clarify it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In calling Attention we do not allow other Members. Let this not be a precedent. As a special case Mr. Danlavate has been allowed.

MR. C.M. STEPHEN: Sir, for the information of my friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and the House, I may say that the information was orally conveyed to the different union leaders that they must come and discuss and finalise the arrangement. It was also put in the papers. An advertisement was put forth in the papers for the information of everybody. If any worker or any union wanted any negotiations, wrote to us and sought an interview or negotiation, there is no case of a refusal of that. No such letter came to us either. I am not very sure about that. There is no question of refusal of that taking place.

This is the position. This has been the position. It was announced, it was conveyed to them. Negotiations were taking place at tripartite and bi-partite levels. It was never the case that negotiation had broken off. But the terms were there. It was announced. 'You pleased come and finalise this agreement'. That was there. That was not the provocation for this hunger strike and all that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now next item Personal explanation by Minister, Mr. C.P.N. Singh

13 21 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): I am taking the opportunity to refute in clear and unequivocal terms personal charges and insinuations made by Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan during the debate on the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Defence on my personal conduct in my then responsibility as Minister, in the Ministry of Defence with regard to the sales

of Centurian tank spares and proposal for the sale of Centurian tanks

It was during the Janata regime in December 1977 that 90 obsolete Centurian tanks were sold. The proposal for the sale of remaining 190 Centurian tanks, was initiated by the predecessor regime in November, 1979. The enquiry for the sale of the tanks, also included enquiry for sale of spares and ammunition. This was widely circulated. It elicited some offers which were considered by an Inter-Disciplinary Committee headed by the then Secretary (Defence Production).

Having been informed that the tanks sold in 1977 did not reach Spain, it was proposed in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs to take all possible precautions to ensure that the tanks do not find their way to a country which is politically unacceptable. Since the offer of M/s Ferro-Import was considered the most acceptable, was proposed to seek necessary guarantees in case the offer of M/s Ferro-Import was to be accepted.

The papers were put up to Hon. P. M. and finance Minister as required and their directions were fully implemented. The sale was deferred; I, in my then called off the negotiations on 3.6.1980 for the sale of the remaining Centurian tanks.

Offers were invited for sale of spares along with tanks and ammunition. Since there was no worth-while offer for spares, the Negotiating Committee recommended re-invitation of bids for sale of spares separately. All the bidders who had submitted offers for tanks and/or spares were invited to submit their offers. The bid of M/s Levy Auto Parts Co. of Canada was the only one fulfilling the conditions laid down regarding earnest money deposit and End User country. There was no prescribed price; the sale was to take place on the basis of the highest acceptable offer. The initial offer of M/s Levy Auto Parts Co. was \$900,000 for 5000 tonnes of spares. On negotiations, they agree to lift only 3000 tonnes within the same amount. Their revised offer for the entire 5000 tonnes was \$1.1 million. It was decided to sell only 3000 tonnes for \$0.9 million. The sale was against an import licence issued by the Government of Canada. Their High Commissioner informed that the re-export from Canada would need their Government's approval.

When the initial offer of M/s Levy Auto Parts. Co. was considered by the Negotiating Committee, a view was expressed and duly recorded in the minutes that it was on the low side. It was precisely for this reason that the likely scrap

[Shri C.P.N. Singh]

value was not assessed by the representatives of the Iron and Steel Controller and the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation after physical inspection and higher price negotiated. The Ministry of Steel was consulted. The MSTC Inspection Team gave its report a month before the deal was concluded. The Finance Ministry approved the sale of 3000 tonnes of spare parts to M/s Levy Auto Parts Co. of Canada.

In this case, the payment was received through a bank draft much before shipments took place. The bank draft was dated 8-8-1980 and was given in the evening of 7-8-1980. The shipments took place in October 1980 and February, 1981.

Sir, I have furnished full details in regard to these two matters to establish beyond doubt that I acted in good faith and in the best interest of the Government. I wish to assert with the fullest sense of responsibility that my role and conduct in this matter was absolutely correct. While the transaction of the sale of tank did not take place at all, the one relating the sale of spares was concluded with the concurrence of the Ministries concerned. It is unfortunate that Shri Unnikrishnan unnecessarily attributed ulterior motives on my part.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKISHNAN
(Badagara) *rose*.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am not permitting you. No discussion. Nothing will go on record. Legislative business.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can give notice.

(Interruptions)**

12.26 hrs.

CINE WORKERS WELFARE CESS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on feature films for the financing of activities to

promote the welfare of certain cine-workers and for matters connected there with or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on feature films for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of certain cine workers and for matter connected therewith or incidental there to”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I introduce the Bill.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : With your permission, since lot of Bills are to be introduced and the House is adjourning today, why not refer these Bills to Select Committees ?

CINE-WORKERS WELFARE FUND BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of certain cine-workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of certain cine-workers

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I Introduce the Bill.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA BILL

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish a corporation to be known as the Export-Import Bank of India for providing financial assistance to exporters and importers, and for functioning as the principal financial institution for coordinating the working of institutions engaged in financing export and import of goods and services with a view to promoting the country's international trade and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

** Not recorded

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 8-5-81.

† Introduced with the recommendation of the President.