

[श्री हरीशंकर महाले]

चाहिए। इसके साथ साथ राष्ट्र का हित भी देखना चाहिए।

(iv) REPORTED RETRENCHMENT OF CASUAL WORKERS IN SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): I would like to raise a matter of great importance under rule 377.

On February 14, 1978, 111 casual workers of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories, who were working under the District Engineer (construction) Kharagpur, South-Eastern Railway have been arbitrarily retrenched. These employees were recruited between may, 1968 and April 1973 and therefore, have been working for nearly ten years and the shortest period has been five years and they have been in continuous service till their retrenchment. It is strange that on the one hand senior employees are being retrenched while on the other, fresh recruitments of about 99 casual workers were made between October 1976 and May 3, 1977 by the same District Engineer. And moreover in 1978 itself, fifty more casual workers of similar categories were recruited by him. There are various schemes of new works which are to be undertaken by the District Engineer (Construction) Kharagpur requiring a large number of employees of similar categories to that of those retrenched personnel. It is also contrary to law to retrench senior employees and continue in employment the juniors. I would request the Government to immediately look into the matter and see that 111 casual retrenched personnel who have acquired considerable experience in their work are immediately taken back in employment so that their experiences and services can be utilised properly. There are sufficient opportunities for fresh employment which can be given to the persons who have been recruited sub-

sequent to the retrenched personnel and they can be continued in service.

The government has taken a vindictive attitude because some of them have gone to court under jurisdiction of article 226. They have not even received their wages for the period they worked, from 16th January to 14th February. Their salary has been withheld although the court granted them liberty to receive the money. This is being deliberately withheld just because they have gone to court. I request the Ministry of Railways to act promptly in the matter and take back the retrenched employees. People who have been working for more than 10 years have been retrenched because they are casual employees and in the meantime new people are taken in the same division. More experienced people are being put out of job. There are numerous vacancies for taking in new people. Apart from the question of law, the question of propriety and morality is there. This is a very important matter because 111 persons for no fault of theirs have been dismissed. I request the government and the Railway Minister to look into it. I have also written to him. I hope the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will kindly bring it to his notice so that some immediate steps may be taken.

14.25 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now resume further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Gauri Shankar Rai and seconded by Dr. Sushila Nayar on the 24th February, 1978, namely:—

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Presi-