

14.0 hrs.

(iii) STRIKE AT ATOMIC POWER STATION IN KOTA

श्री वल्लभ भास्कर नाथूर : (सीकर) : मैं भ्रम मंत्री जी का ध्यान एटोमिक पावर स्टेशन, कोटा में यह तीन महीने से चल रही हड़ताल की ओर दिखाना चाहता हूँ। उस स्टेशन पर करोड़ों रुपया खर्च हो चुका है। इस हड़ताल के कारण इस पावर स्टेशन में बहुत बड़ा नुकसान हो रहा है। माननीय भ्रम मंत्री जी ने वहाँ के मजदूर नेताओं और अधिकारियों को बुला कर समझौता कराया था। वह समझौता अभी तक लागू नहीं हुआ है। यह सारे देश का प्रोजेक्ट है। इसमें राजस्थान और केन्द्र सरकार दोनों को घाटा हो रहा है। मैं माननीय भ्रम मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा कि वे इस सदन में इसके सम्बन्ध में स्थिति को स्पष्ट करें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह प्रोजेक्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार का है और केन्द्रीय सरकार में वह डिपार्टमेंट प्रधान मंत्री जी के पास है। जिस प्रोजेक्ट से केन्द्रीय सरकार का सीधा सम्बन्ध हो, वहाँ भी केन्द्रीय भ्रम मंत्री द्वारा कराये गये समझौते पर अमल न हो, यह हैरानी की बात है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ के अधिकारियों ने इस समझौते को क्यों नहीं माना है? तीन महीने से यह हड़ताल चली आ रही है। माननीय भ्रम मंत्री जी यहाँ बैठे हैं, वे वहाँ पर इसके सम्बन्ध में स्थिति का स्पष्टीकरण करें।

(iv) INDEFINITE STRIKE BY MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, I may be permitted to raise the following urgent matter under rule 377:—

The employees of the Maharashtra Government are on an indefinite

strike since the last three days. The Maharashtra Government is paying about Rs. 500 crores, out of their total revenue of Rs. 1,300 crores, to the employees. Moreover, the State Government extended the financial assistance beyond the recommendation of the Bhole Commission. It may not have satisfied the employees and their leaders.

It may be worthwhile to mention that all the State Governments are in financial difficulties and their total claim amounts to Rs. 1,000 crores—for assistance from the Central Government. It is the primary duty of the Central Government to regulate and control the financial matters of the country and also give the State/guidelines on these. In the present system of money matters, income and distribution, the State Governments are heavily leaning on the Central Government. So, it is the primary duty of the Central Government to extend all assistance and help to the State Governments to maintain stability in financial matters.

The strike of the Maharashtra Government employees will make a heavy commitment on the State Government, and it is impossible for the State Government to meet this financial responsibility without the assistance of the Central Government. Surprisingly enough, an Union Minister is instigating the employees to go on with the strike with an ulterior political motive to topple the Congress Government there. It is reported that this Central Minister has given an assurance to the strike leaders that the Centre will help them to carry on with their agitation against the State Government. A representative of the Confederation met the Minister and got this assurance. In this background it is worthwhile to remember that the Chief Minister, Mr. Vasant Dada Patil, said yesterday that "the strike has been timed to begin from 14th December because the strike leaders feel

sure that, by 29th December, the Centre would dismiss his Ministry and come to terms with the strikers". The action of this Central Minister is against the Constitutional propriety and is a naked intervention into the affairs of the State. The instigation by the Central Minister is politically motivated and it can only help to worsen the Centre-State relations....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is only an alleged interference.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a wild allegation.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It may be worthwhile to recall the unwanted utterances of the Union Minister Shri George Fernandes, against the State Government while he was visiting certain States like Assam and Andhra Pradesh. It is necessary that the Union Ministers must function within the framework of the Constitution and they should not indulge into such activities which will harm the interest of the nation. I would request the Prime Minister to take note of the activities of his Ministers and control them so that they function within the framework of the Constitution.

It was said that it was a wild allegation. It may be a wild allegation, but it is a fact.

14.05 hrs.

SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): I beg to move: *

"That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, be taken into consideration".

Sir, the Bill is a very simple one. As the hon. Members are aware, the Constitution contains a provision which limits the number of judges which can be appointed to the Supreme Court, but it contains an enabling provision that until the Parliament by law otherwise provides, with the result that the Parliament has the power to authorise the appointment of judges even in excess of the number which has been laid down in the Constitution. It is because of this that earlier also the Parliament has authorised the appointment of judges to the extent of 13 judges in addition to the Chief Justice. That was the existing provision.

As the hon. Members are aware, the arrears and delay of administration of justice have assumed alarming proportions all over the country including in the Supreme Court also. As I had occasions to say earlier, while the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court in 1962 was 1700 and odd cases, this figure has gone up to 14,700 and odd cases pending in the Supreme Court on 30th April, 1977.

While other measures are being considered and discussions are going on in various forums, various seminars and symposiums are taking place in the country, the members of the Bar Associations and Bar Council of India are applying their mind to this problem of delayed justice. As the entire House is aware, the backdrop of democracy is the rule of law and the rule of law requires not merely that a person should have a right to go to a court of law for enforcement of his legal rights, but it is also necessary that not only he has an opportunity to go to a court of law, but he must get the result from the court of law also within a reasonable time. Unless the court is able to enforce his legal rights within the reasonable

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.