

[Shri K Lakkappa]

According to constitutional experts, the Governor in his Address is bound to read the Address in full and he has no discretion to omit any portion. It is not the printed text that constitutes the official record of the Governor's Address but the Address as actually delivered. When a Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address is moved, it would refer only to the Address as officially recorded. In the present case, when the discussion takes place on the Motion of Thanks, it should refer only to that portion of the Address as actually delivered and policy matters relating to prohibition etc would not be covered under the discussion. It would therefore be necessary that proper guidelines should be adopted in regard to the preparation of Addresses of Governors by the respective State Governments and their delivery by the Governors.

(vi) Strike by Employees of Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd, Calcutta

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) Sir under rule 377, I wish to raise the following. It is now more than two months that Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd Calcutta are on strike. All categories of employees numbering 10,000 are on complete strike for the last two months. Each and every category of employees have joined this absolute strike and the credibility of the Ministry has gone very low, because of its certain inactions. The grievances of the employees are very legitimate. They are demanding that the emoluments that are given to all categories of employees of Ship-building concern (mainly public Sector Undertakings) be paid to them.

There are about 10,000 workmen manufacturing various important engineering items and recently it has built Asia's biggest dredger, 'Mahayana'. It has also built the largest bulk carrier, 'Lok Priti' which has

been floated by the hon'ble Prime Minister only the other day. From a mere Rs 70 lakhs capital ship repairing company in 1961, to-day it has become an outstanding Rs. 20-crore ship building yard, belonging to the public sector. It is able to manufacture upto 80 per cent of its ancillaries and thus it is saving a huge amount of foreign exchange and imports.

In 1960-61 the total production was worth Rs 231.30 lakhs whilst in 1977-78, it has gone up as high as Rs 5329.94 lakhs. The gross profit in 1960-61 was Rs 8.71 lakh, and for 1977-78 it has risen to Rs 399.05 lakhs. But the wage part of the total value of production has come down very substantially due to whole-hearted cooperation of the workers and their skill. The wage content of production in 1960-61 was 36 per cent whilst in 1976-77 it has gone down to 1/2 i.e. 13 per cent. Although the number of employees and workers have risen from 4280 in 1960-61 to 10271 in 1977 and 10472 in 1978.

In spite of this devotion and whole-hearted support workers receive very meagre wages. An ordinary worker gets not more than Rs 400/- per month and for highly skilled worker it is only Rs 561/- per month, although the productivity has gone up from 1964 33 per cent to 54 per cent in 1977-78. This ship building yard does not get any subsidy from Government as the other ship building yards in the country get. It is also a practice in many countries abroad in some cases.

In spite of this the management has chosen to go back from their own commitment and thus forced the workers to go on strike.

On 25-3-1978 Shri D N Prasad, Joint Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors gave the following written assurance:

'Workmen would not lose anything in view of the fact that the ensuing settlement which would arise

at least for the period of five years might be given effect from 1-1-1977 (Reference—Company's Minutes dated 25-7-1978.)"

On this basis, the Managing Director, Garder. Reach Workshop, also gave a similar written assurance that workmen would not lose since settlement would arise from 1-1-1977."

It was further clarified that the Charter of Demands in respect of all categories of employees could be settled in spite of the fact that whether the tripartite Engineers settlement is finalised or not (Reference—Company's Minutes dated 27-11-1978).

I am in constant touch with the people concerned. I had repeated dialogue with Professor Sher Singh but in vain. I regret to say so I had talks with the Labour Minister of West Bengal many a time and my last visit to this Workshop was on 29th March, 1979. The workers are very much aggrieved and resenting this adamant attitude of the Central Government and they have asked me to convey their determination to fight till the last for fulfilment of the legitimate rights. Owing to this stoppage of work because of the adamant attitude of the authorities, the Yard has already lost production to the tune of 12 crores of rupees. I fail to understand what could be given to Mazagon Dockyard or Goa Shipyard, why the same could not be given to the Garder Reach Workshop. I caution the Government not to kill the goose that is laying golden egg. I would require the Hon. Minister and the Minister of State for Defence Production to give a categorical statement on the floor of the House today so that amicable settlement could be arrived at and the work could be resumed immediately.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION (PROF. SHER SINGH): Most of the questions raised by the hon. member in his statement just now have already been replied on the floor of the House. Garder Reach employees have

been traditionally governed by tripartite engineering settlement. Even before 1976 when the last agreement expired, that was also a tripartite engineering settlement. This time also it is a tripartite engineering settlement. Within this settlement, we are prepared to give something more, which we can within this settlement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What you have promised, give that.

PROF. SHER SINGH: We are doing our best. If we go for a bipartite settlement now, that we will have to do for so many public sector undertakings in Calcutta—8 or 9—where 70,000 people are employed. We cannot bypass this agreement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You want to go back on the promise your Director has made?

PROF. SHER SINGH: I had discussions with my friend Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu and he has also referred to the talks he had with the Labour Minister of West Bengal Government. Efforts for conciliation are going on. The Labour Secretary of West Bengal has met the employees' representatives. He has met the management people also. He is trying his best to arrive at a settlement. I would only appeal to my friend, Shri Bosu and other CPI, CPM and other unions to kindly help us in arriving at a settlement. We want to help the workers there. We do not want the strike to continue because that means a loss of about Rs 4 or 5 crores a month.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Rs 5 crores

PROF. SHER SINGH: Whatever it is, it is a loss and we do not want the strike to continue. But that could be done only under the tripartite agreement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What the Joint Secretary and Director of the Board had agreed to give in writing, whether they are willing to give or not is the question. It is the credibility of the Government.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Let me explain that position. The last settlement expired on the 31st December 1976. We ourselves were very keen to arrive at a new wage settlement and the employees were becoming restless. So, we told them "why do you worry? some settlement would be arrived at even if the tripartite settlement is not arrived at". Some engineering establishments in the private sector in West Bengal are parties to this settlement. So, in that sense, West Bengal Government is a party to that settlement. The Ministry of Heavy Industries is also a party to it. We told the workers that if a tripartite settlement could not be arrived at immediately, or within a reasonable time, then certainly we will have some agreement; it is not that we will not have any agreement at all. It is only in that context that it was explained to them that if the tripartite agreement is delayed unnecessarily, then we can think of bi-partite agreement. Now that the tripartite agreement has been arrived at, there is no question of any bi-partite agreement. Under this we can give them some fringe benefits which we are giving.

13.11 hrs.

MIZORAM APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1979.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Before I make a formal motion about these Bills, Sir, I have to make a humble request to you and, through you, to the whole House. Tomorrow and day after tomorrow are holidays and on Monday probably we are going to have the adjournment motion. The Rajya Sabha session has been extended only upto 28th. This business has to go to Rajya Sabha. So, I would humbly request you and the Whole House that the financial business has to be disposed of today.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair: I beg to move: ?

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Mizoram for the services of a part of the financial year 1979-80, be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Mizoram for the services of a part of the financial year 1979-80, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up clause by clause consideration.

The question is:

"That clause 2.3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

13.13 hrs.

MIZORAM APPROPRIATION BILL 1979.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I beg to move

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further