

curative measures. That brings us to the very important aspect of community and preventive health. So far we have concentrated on clinical aspect to the comparative neglect of community and preventive health. This is something which we have got to set right. General waring should be given but the real solution lies in more drinking water supply and better sewage facilities. The Government is working on these measures in order to give better service to the citizens of the capital.

13 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: STRIKE BY
ENGINEERS IN NEYVELI LIG-
NITE CORPORATION, LTD.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): Sir, about 1,200 Junior Engineers and intermediary technical staff working in the Neyveli Lignite complex of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in the South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu went on strike from the morning of 11th August, 1974 in connection with their demand for higher emoluments, automatic promotion and upgradation of certain categories. Following the strike and sympathetic work-to-rule action by the Assistant Engineers, the Corporation has been compelled to close down their briquetting, fertilizer and power plants. According to information received this morning, the mines are, however, being worked.

The Junior Engineers and intermediary technical staff have already been offered higher emoluments but in regard to other demands, like automatic promotion, etc., these could not be conceded. The Chairman, Neyveli Lignite Corporation had offered to place the matter before the Central Government but this was not accepted by the Engineers and these officers decided to go on strike. Earlier, there were conciliation talks with the Management at Madras, which had also failed. In this context it is relevant to note

that strikes in the Neyveli complex have been prohibited by the Union Government under the Defence of India Rules. Forty seven persons have been arrested so far in connection with this illegal strike under the Defence of India Rules.

This stoppage of work in a core-sector industry like Neyveli Lignite Corporation which produces badly need power and fertilizers at this juncture when the country is facing serious economic difficulties and all-out efforts are being made by the Government to raise production and combat inflation is most unfortunate. I, therefore, appeal to the striking Engineers of Neyveli to appreciate the serious consequences of their unjustified and illegal strike and come back to work.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): As the statement has revealed, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to the procedural matter. Don't go into the merits of the statement.

SHRI JYTIRMOY BOSU. I am seeking your guidance in the matter. 16 people have been arrested. The briquetting plant, the fertilizer plant etc., have been shut down. We have earlier given calling attention notices. But you have allowed the minister to come with a *suo motu* statement.

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam): When there is a calling attention notice pending, if the minister makes a statement, that will scuttle the calling attention notice.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have given a tice under 377, a short notice question and a calling attention notice on this subject. They have been agitating for the fulfilment of their legitimate demands. Now 16 of them have been arrested under the DIR. Who should have precedence—those who have given calling attention notice so that there is a complete dialogue between both sides or the minister to make a *suo motu* speech in self admiration and an appeal to the engineers?

MR. SPEAKER: I receive so many Calling Attention Notices every day.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: But why did you allow the *suo motu* statement of the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: I select only one Calling Attention Notice for each day. If no Calling Attention Notice is admitted, that does not debar a Minister from making a statement. Out of the 50 notices which I receive, I select only one. In the other cases the Minister may make statements. There is no question of procedure involved in this.

Now Shri Shyamnandan Mishra. By the way, who is the stranger sitting behind you?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (गुजरात) :
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह श्री ईश्वर चौधरी हैं।
 इनका मामला हम लोग कल उठाने वाले है।
 घाप जग इन की कथा सुनिये। जेल में इन
 की सकल ही बदल गई है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हमारी तो जेल में
 बाहर ही ऐसी शकल है।

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बोसु : इन को हैडकफूम
 लगा कर घोरकमर में रख कर बाघ कर जेल
 में दिखाया गया कि वह पालियामेंट के मेम्बर
 हैं।

13.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) TWENTY 5-RUPEE CURRENCY NOTES
 REPORTED TO BE BEARING THE SAME
 NUMBER

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA
 (Begusarai): Sir, I have sought your permission to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to an intriguing and disturbing report that appeared in the newspapers day before yesterday. A news item dated Rajkot August 10, stated that 20 consecutive 5-Rupee notes bearing the same number had been received by the Gujarat State Transport Corporation from the State Bank of Saura-

shtra. The notes No. T/77 218978 were collected from the Bank for payment of salaries to the staff. It is remarkable that these notes were not found in the market place or in private hands; they were issued by and obtained from the State Bank of India. The receiving agency also happened to be a government agency

The House will recall that as far back as 26th July, 1971 a news agency had reported from the same place that is, Rajkot that four apparently genuine 10-Rupee notes bearing identical numbers G/77 876344 had come in the possession of Shri Balubhai Jadeja, a social worker of Morvi. According to Shri Jadeja, the local bankers were unable to find any difference between these notes and others. Shri Jadeja had come across such currency notes—all of ten-rupee denomination—during the campaign in the mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha in 1971 from Surendranagar constituency. Shri Jadeja had sent photostat copies of the notes to Acharya Kripalani. During the discussion on the subject later in the Lok Sabha, Shri K. R. Ganesh, Minister of State for Finance, had stated that in all cases where the notes were available for examination it was found that the numbers had been forged on genuine notes. But Shri Jadeja had maintained that he had contacted some bankers in Morvi who scrutinised the four notes with the aid of the ultra violet device used by the banks and found nothing wrong with any of those notes.

The fact that these notes were found in the same place must have some mysterious significance on which Government should throw some light.

Acharya Kripalani had also made an allegation, as far back as July 1971, in a reputed journal that fake currency notes of various denominations "worth several hundred crores of rupees, bearing duplicate numbers of official notes" have been clandestinely put into circulation in the coun-