

15.08 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. COMPENSATION  
FOR LAY-OFFS DUE TO POWER  
SHORTAGE IN U.P.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Sir, With your permission, I beg to make the following statement:

On November, 12, 1974, Shri S. M. Banerjee had drawn attention to the problem of lay offs in Uttar Pradesh due to the power shortage. The Hon'ble Speaker observed that he would ask the Union Labour Minister to make a statement on the subject. In accordance with this directive, I make the following statement:

According to the information made available by the Government of Uttar Pradesh which is the appropriate Government in this case under the Industrial Disputes Act, the State Government had to impose power cut on account of the difficult position in the matter of power supply in the State. A number of industrial units had to resort to lay off. The number of workers laid off in Uttar Pradesh for different periods during January to August 31, 1974, was reported to be 94,787. While information about the number of workers laid off during September and October, 1974 for the State as a whole is not yet available with the State Government, the number of workers laid off for different periods during September and October, 1974 in Kanpur, was intimated by the State Government is 11,134 and 11,599 respectively. Of this, textile industry in Kanpur alone accounts for approximately 9,700 workers laid off. According to the State Industrial Relations Machinery the workers in one of the textile mills in Kanpur (Athertonwest textile mills) which employs about 3,800 workers, have gone on strike from November 16, 1974, over among others, the issue of lay off compensation, following a decision of the authorities of the mill, taken by them, after the reported directive from the Employers'

Association of Northern India, to pay lay off compensation strictly in terms of Section 6-K(1) & (2) of the U.P. Industrial Disputes Act which, *inter alia*, provides that lay off compensation after the expiry of the first 45 days would be payable if the lay off comprise continuous periods of one week or more beyond the first 45 days. The State Industrial Relations Machinery are looking into the matter. We are informed that the State Labour Minister has also convened a tripartite meeting on November, 25, 1974, to discuss the question of lay off compensation in such situations and related matters with the representatives of the workers and those of the industry, mainly the textile industry, in Kanpur.

So far as measures designed to improve the power availability are concerned, the kind attention of the Hon'ble Members is drawn to the statement made by the Minister of Energy in the Parliament on November 12, 1974, in connection with a Calling Attention Notice in the Lok Sabha on that date. The Ministry of Labour are not in a position to add anything more to what the Minister of Energy has already stated.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for having made this statement. But the fact is that the Employers' Association of Northern India at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh has really taken a decision that they will not pay compensation for the period for which the workers are laid off as a result of power shortage. The hon. Minister has stated in the statement that about 3,800 workers belonging to a particular mill have gone on strike. My fear is this. I am not trying to pressurise the Minister, either in the State or in the Centre. The situation is such that the workers are being driven to face starvation. Even 50 per cent had been denied to them. If this is not going to be restored, there will be a general strike of textile and other workers. Hunger knows no law. The employers' association

did this deliberately, knowing well that this is not the fault of the textile workers in Kanpur or in U.P. Because of the Government's failure to restore power during the last 27 years, because of the anti-labour policy, they are now facing starvation. The hon. Minister here should take up this matter with the State Chief Minister and force the employers association to pay lay off compensation. The Prime Minister day in and day out says: produce or perish. The workers are producing and they are perishing. This is a man-made power shortage for which the Government is responsible. To avoid industrial unrest they should take up this matter. I know the Chief Minister does care for labour and I hope he will take up the matter and see that the workers are paid compensation.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA** (Serampore): May I make a submission, arising out of the statement?... (*Interruption*)

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Not on this. We have to do everything according to the rules given by you to me. There should be other occasions and other ways of discussing this.

15.14 hrs.

#### RE. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**SHRI P.G. MAVALANKAR.** (Ahmedabad) I rise on a point of order. According to the List of Business last Friday, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs was to come to this House with his usual weekly statement of Government business for the next week, that is beginning from today. On the basis of that item in the List of Business on Friday many of us had written to the Speaker in advance that we wanted to raise certain issues which were agitating the public mind in various parts of the country. Unfortunately that item never came up. Later on we learnt through the "Bulletin" that Government business for this week beginning from today was communicated to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and was printed in the bulletin. Are we

to take notice of that bulletin without the business being formally announced by the Minister and approved by the House?

**श्री मधु निमये (बाका) :** बुलेटिन में जो आता है मैं नहीं पढ़ता हूँ। यह हमारा नियम है। कम से कम मैं उन में से ही हूँ। जब तक कोई चीज सदन के सामने नहीं आती है अगले वीक के विजिनेस के बारे में और हमें सुझाव देने का मौका नहीं मिलता है, तब तक बुलेटिन बगरह मैं नहीं पढ़ता हूँ। नियमों के अनुसार चलिये। पन्द्रह बीस साल की परिपाटी को तोड़ना ठीक नहीं है।

**SHRI P.G. MAVALANKAR:** I am not raising here the various points which I wanted to raise. I am raising a fundamental issue that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has taken recourse to the "Bulletin" for announcing the Government business.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE** (Rajapur): In connection with the point that has been raised by my hon. friend, Shri Mavalankar, I wish to bring to your notice that only because we were assured that that statement will be made in the House that we did not give any notice under rule 377. Now that particular statement has not come, as it was communicated to the House through the bulletin, because of the wrong procedure followed by office, those of us who had not given notice under rule 377 lose our right to raise important issues. Therefore, all those members of the House who were permitted that day to raise issues after the statement is made by the hon. Minister, all of those members must be permitted today to make statements here. Sir, very often you are very flexible and you want the Parliament to become the barometer of the country. So, do not provoke the