

[Mr. Speaker]

House without any motion? You do not come with a motion and you keep on shouting only.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Here, on this occasion, the parliamentary record is cluttered with a document. It goes unanswered. I go with an impression that it is a correct allegation. The whole country gets an impression that it is a correct allegation...
(Interruptions)

Shri H. N. Mukerjee then left the House

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to say... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They have all left now.

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon) : Sir, nine people died in my constituency. It is a very serious and urgent matter...

MR. SPEAKER : On account of what?

SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR : On account of floods. Some time must be allotted tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : Give me something in writing. That will be followed by a statement from the Government.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Sir, I wanted to say...

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, I cannot allow you. The matter about that letter is over now. I am not allowing you.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : That means, what the ruling party says will be taken as correct? Should I take it that you are not the custodian of rights...

MR. SPEAKER : I am the custodian, but you are not taking it like that.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The question is that one wants to say something. There is a point of order... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my very clear ruling and observation. I am not going to allow anybody to speak after that. Is it in connection with this matter?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It was in connection with this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am sorry.

Shri S. M. Banerjee then left the House

12'57 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER MINES AND MINERALS
(REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

ACT AND REVIEW AND ANNUAL

REPORT OF MANGANESE

ORE (INDIA) LTD.,

NAGPUR

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINLS
(SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : I beg to
lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulations and Development) Act, 1957 :

(i) The Mineral Concession (First Amendment) Rules, 1972, published in Notification No. G. S. R. 319 in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1972.

(ii) The Mineral Concession (Second Amendment) Rules 1972, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399 in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1972. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—2066/72.]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1970-71.

(ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1970-71 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—2067/72.*]

12'58 hrs.

STATEMENT RE DEMANDS OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the demands of the employees of the Employees' Provident Fund.

Statement

I am glad to have an opportunity of making a statement on the demands of the employees of the Employees' Provident Fund, a subject which has exercised the minds of several Honourable Members.

2. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is a statutory one, set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952. Its main function is to collect Provident Fund contributions from employers and workers every month, to invest the accumulations in as profitable a manner as possible and to refund the amount standing in the name of each subscriber at the time he retires from service. Thus the Fund provides an important retirement benefit to our industrial workers. As the House is aware, by an amendment which was enacted last year, the Fund is also entrusted with the administration of a Scheme of Family Pension under which dependents of industrial workers who die while in service are paid a pension in addition to the accumulations standing in the name of the deceased subscriber.

3. The operation of the Scheme is entrusted to a tripartite Board of Trustees consisting of representatives of employers, workers and the Central Government and State Governments. The Organisation is an autonomous one but the Act reserves certain powers for the Central Government; these include the appointment of senior officers of the Organisation and approval of the pay and allowances and the terms and conditions of service of the employees of the Organisation. It is with this second matter that we are now principally concerned.

4. Till the year 1960, the pay and allowances of the employees used to be regulated by the corresponding terms and conditions of the respective State Governments; as members are aware, the Organisation has regional offices in all the States. In 1960, the Central Government decided, as a measure of concession to the employees, that the Central Government pay scales and terms and conditions of service should apply; this is the position now.

5. Of late, however, the employees have been asking that they should have separate and better pay scales of their own, unlinked and unrelated to Central Government scales. In particular, they have been saying that they should be equated with public sector organisations like the Life Insurance Corporation of India, the nationalised Banks and the State Trading Corporation. The Board of Trustees discussed this demand but were, on the whole, of the view that the Central Government scales should continue to prevail. Some members of the Board felt that as the Organisation is autonomous and not in receipt of any grants or other financial assistance from the Central Government it should have its own pay scales. The majority opinion, however, was that the work done by these employees is very similar to that in corresponding offices of the Central Government and that the Central Government pay scales were more appropriate than those of autonomous industrial undertakings like the Life Insurance Corporation, or the State Trading Corporation. Government have carefully considered this matter and in their view, the adoption of Central Government scales represented the right and correct course. The nature of the work and the degree of responsibility shouldered are similar to those in corresponding accounting organisations in