

197 *Re. Working Journalists, etc.* PHALGUNA 29, 1894 (SAKA) *Re. Letter of Resignation by Minister. (St.)*

leave to introduce a Bill further to amend certain taxation laws in the Union territories.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend certain taxation laws in the Union territories."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN : I introduce† the Bill.

12.35 hrs.

RE. STRIKE BY WORKING JOURNALISTS, ETC.

SHRI A.K. GOPALAN (Palghat) : Under rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure, I raise the following matter in the House and request the concerned minister to make a statement :

"Token strike by working journalists throughout the country today to press their case for a third wage board, revision of D.A. and interim relief, etc."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Will you ask the Labour Minister to make a statement? The working journalists are agitated over this.

MR. SPEAKER : I will convey it to him.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : I want to know when the Minister will make his statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Is he going to make it today?

MR. SPEAKER : I will convey it to him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Why don't you direct him to make a statement?

MR. SPEAKER : My conveying it to him means that I am sending it on to him.

श्री हरी भूषण (दक्षिण दिल्ली) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह आज अखबारों के कर्मचारियों की हड़ताल हो रही है यह देश में सबसे बड़ी हड़ताल है और इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय का बयान आना चाहिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठिये ।

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Pupri) : Sir, I want a statement to be made about the mine explosion in Dhanbad.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed a Calling Attention on that.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. LETTER OF RESIGNATION BY MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Friday the 16th I had read out in this hon. House extracts of a letter I wrote to the Prime Minister, regarding my decision to resign from the Council of Ministers. As several hon. Members also remarked that day, it was the Prime Minister's prerogative to take a decision on my letter. On the 18th evening she informed me that she had considered the matter, but was not accepting my resignation, and would like me to continue as Minister. In deference to her wishes, I will continue to have the privilege of serving her and the country in my present capacity.

I may add that, with regard to Avros, we have decided to institute a high-level examination of all aspects involved. I hope to be able to announce the details of this within the next few days.

May I, once again express my deep gratitude to the hon. Members and to you, Sir, for the generosity with which you have treated me?

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

श्री झरल बिहारी बाबूदेवी : (स्वातियर) :
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है कि एवरो पर झाज जो चर्चा रख रहे हैं वह जांच से पहले रखी जाये जिससे मंत्री महोदय को फसला लेने में सदन के बिचारों से भी लाभ हो सके । एवरो के बारे में हम लोगों ने भी प्रस्ताव दे रखा है ।

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into this.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : That day it was almost a farewell function. Now, Sir, you have to take back whatever you said.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : You must expunge your own remarks.

MR. SPEAKER : I said that day "unless the Prime Minister decides about it otherwise."

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East) : That is exactly where the procedural point comes in. Quite apart from our personal liking for the Minister, the procedural aspect of the matter continues to irritate and puzzle many of us. You permitted a statement to be made the other day which was, obviously, premature. Obviously, the Prime Minister had either not communicated her refusal to accept his resignation, or had spoken to him in a very confusing manner. Last time we had already wasted the time of the House, every second of which is paid for by the people of this country, and that is why procedure becomes important. We are all fond of Dr. Karan Singh. Personally speaking, perhaps I am fond of him more than most of the members of this House. But, in so far as the procedure is concerned, I am deeply disturbed to find that the Prime Minister's allergy to have her presence in this House leads perhaps to all kinds of things coming up, leading to the waste of time of this House. We are wasting the time of this House with impunity.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Naturally, being a woman, she had second thoughts this time.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : (Begusarai) : May I raise another point of procedure? Would it now be the normal practice in this House that when the resignation of a Minister is in the process of consideration, the Minister would come forward and make a statement in the House? Sir, you would remember that the statement of the Minister had an extremely confusing effect on the minds of most of the members present, and the Minister would not have come forward with that statement unless the Prime Minister had given an inkling of her mind that she was going to accept that resignation. That was the impression that we got.

12.45 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR:
 GRANTS (GENERAL), 1972-73
 —contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K.R. Ganesh to continue his reply.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : May I make a submission, Sir? There is a news-item that has appeared in *Patriot*—I quote :

"Rotten milk powder, ghee from W.F.P. sold to the poor."

I have also given a Call Attention Notice on it. Because it comes under the Supplementary Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Agriculture, you may kindly allow me to make a submission and the Minister may reply to it. I will take only a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is already replying to the debate.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Suppose I interrupt him. This is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister is already replying to the debate, how can you make up another speech in between?

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : Not a speech, only a submission.