

(श्री सतपाल कपूर)

मैं उपा एरिया से आता हूँ, जो सरप्लस है। पिछले साल पंजाब ने 27 लाख टन से ज्यादा व्हीट सेंट्रल पूल में दिया था। इस साल हमें 22 लाख टन व्हीट देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट ने होल-सेलबैंड को व्हीट ट्रेड में इन्ट्रोड्यूस करने की जो पॉलिसी सरकार की है, उस का वह बदले। उस को बदलना बहुत जरूरी है।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue your speech tomorrow. Now, before I call Mr. Bosu, I have request from the Minister of Railways that he would like to share certain information with the House before the Motion itself is taken up. If you have no objection I will allow him to make that statement. The Minister for Railways.

If you have no objection, I will call upon him. Let him make the statement.

14.59 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: THREATENED
RAILWAY STRIKE

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I had in my statement made in the House on 25th April, 1974, informed the House of the strike notice that has been served on the zonal Railway Administrations, on the 22nd and 23rd April, 1974, by the recognised Unions affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation, and some unrecognised unions. I had on that occasion made it very clear that I would make every effort to arrive at a negotiated settlement, and I appealed to all the staff in the Indian Railways, to con-

sider the present critical economic situation of the country, and not to take any precipitate action which would harm the country's interests.

15 hrs.

Since then, there have been long meetings of the Negotiations Committee presided by the Deputy Minister of Railways, Shri Mohd Shafi Qureshi, on the 27th, 29th and 30th April, 1974. All the demands were discussed at length and wherever the Government could meet the demands this has been agreed to. I also joined the discussions late in the evening on 30th April, and it was then decided that the minutes of the meetings, the areas where agreement had been reached and the stand on the other items should be finalised on 1st May, at a meeting in Rail Bhavan, where the representatives of all the Union would meet the Member (Staff). This meeting on the 1st May was attended by Shri A P. Sharma, Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan and Shri Gokhale, but none of the representatives from AIRF or other unions was present. The minutes were finalised on the 1st May and they were further discussed today, the 2nd May and accepted. The final stand on the demands....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Accepted by whom?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: ...has been taken.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Accepted by whom?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: By those who were present. I shall briefly....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): We have cooperated with the hon. Minister at your request, Sir. If he does not show cooperation, we shall stand in the way of his making such sort of speeches here. It is never done. You must appreciate that we have

allowed you to do something which is never done, because you as Deputy-Speaker has requested.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I am only giving the facts. I shall briefly enumerate the various demands of the unions and the final outcome of the negotiations.

One of the main demands was revision of wages by about 75 per cent and change in the dearness allowance formula. The wage bill on the Indian Railways for the year 1972-73 was about Rs. 500 crores. The decision of the Government on the Pay Commission's recommendations gives a benefit of Rs. 110 crores to the railwaymen which means a 20 per cent increase in the wage bill. A further 75 per cent increase in the wage bill would have meant at least Rs. 400 crores of expenditure. After the Pay Commission have gone into all aspects of wages and dearness allowance and the Government had taken the decision on it, it was not possible now to revise the wages and the dearness allowance formula.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order.... (Interruptions.)

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: In any case, I shall state it

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: On a point of order.... (Interruptions.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me hear his point of order.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur): We also would like to participate in the debate. If it is the intention of hon. Members that everybody should speak and be heard, let all speak and all of us be heard. Otherwise, it will be difficult for anybody to speak. Otherwise, we shall also raise points of order on Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu's speech.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: My point of order is this. The adjournment motion was set to start at three

O'clock today. At that time, the House could not transact any other business except my moving the adjournment motion. You, Sir, had made a certain request....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not made a request.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I withdraw that part and say that you announced that the Railway Minister...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I did not announce.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: wanted to share certain information with us, and we were anxious to hear him. That does not mean that he should give a reply before hearing us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is no reply....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We go by this now that there is no provision in the rules for the hon. Minister to make a speech like this before an adjournment motion is moved. So, he should now be asked to keep quiet and listen to us and give his reply at the end of the debate.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): He cannot direct like this. How can he may say that the hon. Minister should keep quiet? He cannot use the words 'keep quiet'.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar): On a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: They demanded a statement. Now they do not want it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me first deal with the point of order raised already. There cannot be too many points of order.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have risen to a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will hear it after I deal with this. Exactly because I am aware of this, I thought I should mention to the House and take the consent of the House. But this is rather unusual. Naturally, when a Minister wants to come forward with a statement the...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: A funny thing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:....Chair is informed about it. Very often he gives a copy of the statement in advance. If he is allowed to make the statement, we go by the rules, that no questions may be asked. Here a statement came to me a little while ago before the debate started.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why did you allow it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That was why I put it to you and you all agreed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): I was not here. I did not agree.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Does not matter if the House agreed. The majority of the House agreed.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Prof. Dandavate himself agreed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now I have done it with the consent of the House and the House cannot go back on it even if you do not want to hear the Minister.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Once other demand.....(Interruptions.)

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): We cannot hear you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us do things as decided. I have done it with the consent of the House. I cannot go back on it.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: One other demand was that there should be a scientific job evaluation of all jobs in the Railways, and this I have accepted within the framework of the Pay Commission's recommendations.....(Interruptions.)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We have been deceived. Let that go on record.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Considering the large number of categories.....(Interruptions.)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I cannot hear.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What can I do about it?

SHRI PILOO MODY: Ask him to wait till the House quietens down. Here is a most important statement being made and we cannot hear even a word of it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We won't allow him to make the statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is the right of members to hear. What can I do about it, if you yourselves create noise. I cannot go back on any decision of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What is the information that he has shared so far with us?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Considering the large number of categories involved and the complexity of the problem, this scientific job evaluation may take at least 3 years, but when once it is done, it will definitely be useful and will benefit the staff (Interruptions.)

On the question of giving bonus to the railwaymen.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Do not be a party to this deceit....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have taken the consent of the House.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: On the question of giving bonus to the railwaymen, since the Bonus Review Committee is seized of the problem, it will be premature to take a decision until the recommendations of the Bonus Review Committee are received by the Government

As regards the demand concerning working hours.... (*Interruptions*), I have accepted the Miabhoy Tribunal's award *in toto*, and this gives a benefit of Rs. 35 crores.

As regards the employment of casual labour, while this cannot be completely precluded considering the type and conditions of works on the Railways, I have agreed that casual labour will not be utilised in certain specified locations like workshops, yards, stations, loco sheds etc, for works of a regular and continuous nature. I have agreed to a cadre review as early as possible at such of the above locations and create additional posts, if necessary. This will benefit a large number of workers.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: On a point of order.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, why don't you keep quiet?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The Chair should regulate the proceedings. You must be within the rules. You must regulate the proceedings. They demanded a statement. Now everytime they are interrupting. This is not permitted within the rules. Under the guise of points of order he disrupts the proceedings..... (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not opposed to the statement. Let him make a statement. My point of order is only this. Is it open to the Minister to say something which is not correct? He said something about bonus. This question was never before the Bonus Review Committee. It has not considered that issue at all..... (*Interruptions*.) I want your ruling.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I promise you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I shall never believe anything that comes from this corrupt Minister.... (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: On a point of order. I take strong exception to what Mr. Bosu has said. Please check up the record. What he said should be expunged. He said: I am not prepared to hear anything from the corrupt Minister. That should be expunged from the records of the proceedings.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My point of order is not on corruption. My point of order is different. We are not deciding which percentage of corruption. My point of order is this. He has a right to make a statement. He says something in that statement about which apparently he does not know. It is before you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker; that statement is not before me. I am only hearing it as he reads it. He says that the Bonus Review Committee is considering it. It is not before the Bonus Review Committee and he cannot therefore say so.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: As regards the demand for supply of subsidised foodgrains in grainshops I have agreed that arrangements will be made to open as many fair price shops as necessary so that all points on the Railways, where more than 300 staff are posted, will have fair price shops where grains will be made available at the same scale and rate that the State Government gives.

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

These fair price shops will be run either by co-operatives or can be licensed to and organised by staff representatives. Government will make available the necessary buildings and the staff to operate fair price shops will be given on deputation from the Railways if required by the cooperative societies.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): On a point of order. I have to make a submission.... (*Interruptions.*) It is a point of order. 3 P.M. was the time fixed for taking up the adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have you come in just now or you were in right at the beginning? When did you come?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I am coming to that point also.

Sir, you are setting up a new convention. The adjournment motion has been admitted and the subject of the adjournment motion is the railway strike. If you do not suspend the rules, only the mover of the motion is entitled to make his submission. The House has not got the right, not even the Deputy-Speaker has got the right, to allow the Minister to make a statement without suspending the rule relating to adjournment motions. If you permit the hon. Minister to make his statement, then, it means, you are setting up a new convention, in contravention of the rules of the House. This is my submission. You cannot allow him to make the statement. (*Interruptions.*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. Let me deal with him. I asked Mr. Guha specifically this question, at what time, at what point of time, he came to the House.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: That is not the point.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have heard you. Kindly sit down. (*Interruptions.*)

If you are not interested, there is no point of order. Mr. Mishra, you can carry on.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: From what I have stated to you, the totality of the demands put forth by the unions is clear. I leave it to the House to judge how it is possible for the Railways to agree to these demands in toto. There are only two alternatives—either to increase the fares and freights or to run the Railways with a huge deficit.

Therefore, both ways, whether it is increase in freights and fares, or the working of the Railways at a loss, can thus damage to the nation. Therefore, there was no other alternative but to consider only those demands which can be met without seriously jeopardising the financial resources of the Railways. Already in these negotiations I have agreed to items which will aggregate to a total of about Rs. 70-80 crores and together with pay revisions as result of Pay Commission's recommendations, the increase to burden on the Railways will be in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 190 crores which is about 40 per cent of the Wage Bill of 1972-73. The House will, therefore, appreciate that I have done the very best in meeting the demands.

I, therefore, appeal to the House to support me in the stand that I have taken and use all your influence with the public and the railway staff to see that the wheels are kept moving and the country's economy is not shattered.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu, I must say that whatever has happened, has been most unfortunate and I would like that this should not be repeated. I do not approve of the idea of the Chair being caught by surprise.

Now, this statement came before me just before I was about to call Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. I did not have a chance to go through the statement myself. Normally, a statement should be before the Speaker long before it is made, so that he can go through it and all that sort of thing. I would also point out to the rule that when the Minister *suo motu* wants to make a statement, he can come with a statement, with the permission of the Speaker. In such cases, no questions are asked. But when a request like this came, I immediately felt that the procedure was rather unusual, specially. . . . (Interruptions.) The difficulty with you is that you came at a point of time and you did not know what was going on here. You raised such a hullabaloo. I was reply to you but you were too busy talking and you did not listen to me. That is the difficulty.

I felt that the whole thing was unusual, especially when it is a sensitive question, which touched-off a lot of furore in the morning. I did not want that to be repeated. Therefore, I thought I should take the consent of the House. I did not know what the statement was but I thought that if the Minister has some information to give, then the members could discuss it more meaningfully. Therefore, I mentioned to you that if you had no objection, I would allow him to make a statement, and you all agreed. When by your consent I have allowed him, how do you ask me to go back in the middle? That is not possible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, you have allowed something more. Earlier, when I wanted to give some piece of information you said "yes, but afterwards". Let me give that piece of information before the discussion on the adjournment motion begins.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a rather unusual procedure.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has allow it. It is on record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will tell you what happened before, in the case of Prof. Dandavate, because you were not in the House and I was here. While one member was speaking on the Finance Bill, Prof. Dandavate came and wanted to intervene to pass on some information relating to this. I told him at that point of time "this is irregular, you can mention this when we take up the adjournment motion". I did say that. Therefore, if you do not mind, let him pass on that information. Since I have allowed the Minister to pass on some information, why should I not allowed him also?

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): The Minister has not even expressed regret.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Regret for what?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, on a point of order. While permitting the Minister to make a statement, you were kind enough to state that you will take the sense of the House. So, in this case also you have to take the sense of the House. (Interruption.) In the case of an unusual procedure you have to adopt the same procedure. (Interruption.) I want to assure you that my other friends will not otherwise be allowed to speak. Therefore, kindly listen to my point of order. My point of order should be heard. . . . (Interruption.) My point of order is this. When you found the statement of the Minister coming at the last moment, you considered it an unusual thing. For that reason, you had to take the permission of the House. This is also an unusual thing. Since the hon. Member is coming up with a statement, which is an unusual thing, I would request you to follow the same procedure and take the consent of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us not be too small-minded. Let us hear him.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is a question of procedure. In your judgment, if you want to rule it out, I have nothing to say. (*Interruptions.*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have made a commitment to him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): As permitted by you earlier, with your permission, Sir, I am only giving one piece of information that will help the debate. We have just now received the news that Mr. Mhalgi who was the General Secretary of the Indian Mazdoor Union, who was a great trade union leader of Railways in Bombay, though he was a heart patient, was taken into custody against medical advice and he died in the custody today and, as a result of that, there is going to be a Bombay bandh tomorrow.... (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

15.30 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT—
Contd.

ARREST OF LEADERS OF RAILWAY
WORKERS—Contd.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: (Dalmond Harbour): Sir, I share the concern expressed by Prof. Dandavate in passing on the news of the sad demise of Comrade Mhalgi who was the mover of this resolution. That is why it is much more significant. Although he was a heart patient and the police knew it, they did not take

any care and the man died while in custody. So, the people of Bombay will rise tomorrow and give you a befitting reply.... (*Interruptions*).

I move:

"That the House do now adjourn" to discuss the indiscriminate arrest of leaders and workers of Railways, like, Mr. George Fernandes, Mr. P. K. Barooah, Mr. N. S. Choudhury and others.

I must at the outset confess that during my seven years in the Lok Sabha, I have not seen one single instance when the Minister took recourse to a trickery, to take advantage of our move for a settlement, to take advantage that we are very anxious to come forward for a settlement.... (*Interruptions.*) and also, with the Deputy-Speaker in the Chair, he was hoodwinked and taken for a ride. In the House, we may or may not agree on many things. But at least we do not go in for taking recourse to methods of cheating. That is what has been done right now.

A situation has been created by Mr. Uma Shankar Dikshit and Mr. L. N. Mishra under the supreme command of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. They are determined to bring calamity to millions. Today, in the Railways, there are 17 lakh workers and 3 lakh casual workers. They will plunge us into the worst crisis of all times. It is exhibiting worst betrayal and meanness. This repressive attitude only befits the class character of the ruling party people who sit against us.

Today's arrest of Mr. George Fernandes at 3-30 A.M. at Lucknow, the Convenor of the National Coordination Committee for Railwaymen's struggle, the arrest of Mr. N. S. Choudhury, Member, Action Committee, the arrest of Mr. P. K. Barooah—the police came and knocked at the door of Mr. A. K. Gopalan at 4 P.M.