

12.40½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WORKERS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LIMITED

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Deficiencies in steel production have been a matter of great concern to the Government as well as to the House. As the House is aware, a number of steps have been considered to step up production. One of the factors which has affected production is unsatisfactory industrial relations that have existed in certain units of Hindustan Steel.

In this context, it is a matter of gratification that the recent wage agreement concluded by the Joint Wage Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry through bi-partite negotiations not only settled the question of wages for the next 4 years starting from 1st September, 1970 but also covered a number of other allied matters. This Committee is a representative organization consisting of four representatives of the employers from the four main producers of steel (Hindustan Steel Ltd., Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and Mysore Iron & Steel Ltd.) and, on the workers' side fifteen representatives—three each from Central Trade Union Organizations viz., the Indian National Trade Union Congress, All-India Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and one representative each from recognized unions at Jamshedpur, Burnpur, Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur and Bhadravati.

The Committee has decided to continue to function in order to supervise and ensure the implementation of the agreement in a spirit of goodwill and to maintain peaceful and harmonious industrial relations and to make every effort to increase productivity. I have addressed the Committee and was impressed with the spirit of goodwill and cooperation which governs their discussions. I have requested the Committee to take up broader responsibilities, especially those flowing out of the urgent need to increase production. As a consequence, the name of the Committee has been changed to Joint Negotiating Committee for the Steel Industry.

In this background and with a view to further strengthen the relations between the

management and the workers in HSL, Government have proposed to the trade union representatives on this Committee that 2 representatives of the workers may be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Hindustan Steel Limited. The workers' representatives have welcomed the proposal and promised to send their suggestions for the implementation of this proposal.

Government hope that this step would help materially in obtaining the full cooperation of the workers in increasing production in Hindustan Steel and thus contribute towards the improvement of our economy and the fulfilment of our Plans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY MEMBER

RAJMATA V. R. SCINDIA (Bhind): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 23rd March, 1971 Shri S. M. Banerjee said in the course of a Calling Attention discussion, "and also what happened in Morena. Villages have been burnt by the Rajmata of Gwalior."

I do not have the slightest idea as to what Shri Banerjee was referring to when he alluded to some happenings in Morena. As to his remark that "villages have been burnt by the Rajmata of Gwalior", I wish to affirm with all the emphasis at my command that the statement is not only incorrect but malicious. It is a slander on my record of public service. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begu-sarai): Sir, you should pull them up. When others are interrupting you pull them up. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): They have no sense of decency.

RAJMATA V. R. SCINDIA: Sir, remarks of this nature against members are being made from time to time. I fervently appeal to you, Sir, to safeguard our honour and the prestige of this august House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order. You have allowed her. I have nothing against the Rajmata. She is as a sister to me. I am not going to add to it.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): If he is going to apologise, he may be allowed to speak.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Rule 357 says:—

“A member may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the House, but in this case no debatable matter may be brought forward, and no debate shall arise.”

A debate in the matter should not be allowed.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Now he is debating the matter.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not debating it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You are satisfied with the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You said something and the Member has a right to make a personal explanation. I am not going to allow anything further.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: She says, “malicious”. I have no intention of maligning her. Why should I malign anyone? I am happy that the Rajmata did not act under the instigation of the Jana Sangh. Very good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He is making another allegation:—baseless, mischievous, malicious.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Thank you; thank you; thank you.

12.47 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): Sir, I move the following:—

“That in pursuance of Rules 20 (16) and (17) and 24 (2) of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this

House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing body of the Indian Council of Medical Research.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Rules 20 (16) and (17) and 24 (2) of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing body of the Indian Council of Medical Research.”

The motion was adopted.

RE: DISSOLUTION OF PUNJAB ASSEMBLY—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: As for item 7A, regarding certain points raised on the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, when I was referring to rule 377 the Prime Minister got up and said that they had just then received some information.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: You should not preclude us from making our observations. This is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix up some time later on.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: We may have the discussion later on but now let us make some observations about what happened in Punjab. The House must be made aware of what happened in Punjab and in what manner. The hon. Member, Shri Darbara Singh, has already given a motion. Let him at least move it.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no motion and there is no question of moving anything. It is under rule 377. Something can be referred to under rule 377 if it is not a point of order. Members wanted to raise this discussion and I said that I would keep it in view and let them know later on. One is by Shri Hari Kishore Singh, Sardar Darbara Singh, Shri Sat Pal Kapur and Shri Vayalar Ravi; another on the same subject is by Dr. Henry Austin and another by Shri Vikram Mahajan. It is not a single one. I think, I will have to consider