

are in or about the said coking coal mines with a view to re-organising and reconstructing such mines and plants for the purpose of protecting conserving and promoting scientific development of the resources of coking coal needed to meet the growing requirements of the iron and steel industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the right, title and interest of the owners of the coking coal mines specified in the First Schedule, and the right, title and interest of the owners of such coke oven plants as are in or about the said coking coal mines with a view to re-organising and reconstructing such mines and plants for the purpose of protecting, conserving and promoting scientific development of the resources of coking coal needed to meet the growing requirements of the iron and steel industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

†SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : I introduce the Bill.
13.22 hrs

STATEMENT OF INCIDENT IN
WILLINGDON HOSPITAL ON 16TH
MAY, 1972 RELATING TO A MEM-
BER OF LOK SABHA

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKER DIKSHIT) : The House will recall that there was discussion on the 16th May, 1972 in regard to the unfortunate incident that had occurred in the Willingdon Hospital that day, in which an Hon'ble Member of the house was alleged to have been assaulted by some employees of the Hospital. I had informed the House that the matter was being remitted to the District Magistrate Delhi, for conducting an inquiry with a view to ascertaining all the facts and

determining the precise responsibility for the incident.

The District Magistrate had, accordingly, commenced his inquiry. He issued a public notice which was published in all the leading newspapers of Delhi, requesting that any person having personal knowledge of the incident may contact him so that the District Magistrate could record his statement. Three members of the public responded to the District Magistrate's public notice. The hospital authorities furnished a list of 30 persons likely to have personal knowledge of the incident. The District Magistrate also undertook an inspection of the premises where the incident had taken place.

Meanwhile I received a letter from the members of the Action Committee, Willingdon Hospital Employees' Association starting that the members of the Action Committee regretted this end and unfortunate incident which took place on the 16th May. They also stated that no useful purpose would be served by the District Magistrate proceeding with his inquiry and added that they would abide by my decision in the matter. I also received a copy of the letter the Honourable Member of this House Shri C.P. Shailani wrote to the Hon'ble Speaker. The Hon'ble Member stated that he had deeply pondered over all aspects of the matter and had been feeling unhappy over the incident. He expressed his satisfaction over the fact that certain employees of the Willingdon Hospital had expressed their sincere regrets for what had happened. He had requested the Hon'ble Speaker that he may advise the Government of India that no further action may be taken in the matter and that the inquiry by the District Magistrate may be dropped. In view of these developments I would request your permission, Sir, to announce that in deference to the wishes of the Hon'ble Member as well as of the employees of the Willingdon Hospital it has been decided that the District Magistrate, Delhi, need not proceed with his inquiry. I fully trust that he employees

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President

[Shri Uma Shanker Dikshit]

not only of the Willingdon Hospital but of all other institutions will appreciate the importance and value, in a democracy, of courteous behaviour towards all citizens. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Member for the spirit of forbearance which he has shown in this matter.

I would like to inform the House that I had deputed the Additional Director General of Health Services to study the working of the casualty department and to make suggestions for effecting improvements. The Additional Director General completed his study and made detailed recommendations which were, after consideration in the Ministry and consultation with the hospital authorities, accepted and instructions were accordingly issued on June 23, 1972. The Directorate General of Health Services has been ordered to organise surprise visits to the emergency wards. I am informed that during recent visits the officers have noticed improvement. I am confident that this trend of improvement would be maintained and the functioning of the casualty department would leave nothing to be desired.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should drop it now.

STATEMENT BY SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA RE. HIS RESIGNATION FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

12.26 hrs.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Bangalore): I am put to the necessity of making a statement as some false allegations against me have been Published in connection with my resignation from the Council of Ministers.

It was alleged that I put up "stiff resistance" to my ouster from the Cabinet, that I even refused to resign and delayed Cabinet reshuffle.

I met the prime Minister on 16th July 1972. She Spoke in general terms about her intention to make changes in the Cabinet. She did not ask for my resignation and she said that 'we may meet again'. I came away and awaited her instructions. I waited the whole of the next day. I left Delhi on the 18th to nearby Alwar to have

a quiet time—free from correspondents and controversies. But I had kept the Prime Minister informed of the place I was staying and the phone number also so that she could at any time she pleased call me to do what she wanted.

I returned to Delhi on the 20th of my own accord. That evening she called me. We had some talk dispassionate and dignified. We understood one another at our best. On her throwing a hint that I may make room for her to re-shape her Cabinet, I readily agreed. During the course of the conversation I mentioned that I was flying to Bangalore in the morning of the next day, 21st, to attend a previously fixed function. She gracefully suggested that I might send the resignation letter from Bangalore after the function was over. I did not want to take advantage of her kindness, and sent my letter of resignation soon after — hardly an hour later. The resignation, however, was accepted two days later, on the 22nd afternoon.

The rumours that I resisted and refused to resign, are false. I have been a student of Public Administration. It is an elementary principle which everyone knows that a Prime Minister has the right and authority to choose her colleagues. That a few persons and papers of the left as well as the right should give publicity to revengeful falsehood, for the undisclosed reason of my failing to oblige them when in office, is an unbecoming feature of our public life. I have to put up with such accusations—for, a time will come when they are bound to revise their opinion of me and my performance. Facts and figures of improvements effected in Railway administration during the time I held office will continue to speak long after the echoes of false and conspiring criticisms against me will have died down.

I might also disclose to the House that at no time was there any issue of disagreement between me and the Prime Minister. I have been happy and satisfied that she is evolving and implementing many of the important policies and points I have been advocating for a long time. I