

[Mr. Speaker]

Shri V. Krishnamoorthi, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri Raja Venkappa Naik, Dr. Sushila Nayar, Shri Jagannath Pahadia, Shri Nanubhai N. Patel, Shri P. Ramamurti, Shri K. Narayana Rao, Shri A. S. Saigal, Shri B. Shankaranand, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla, Shri S. S. Syed, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Y. B. Chavan.

and 13 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 13 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Sir, what happens to Shri Frank Anthony's motion?

18.08 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: PORT AND DOCK  
WORKERS STRIKE**

**The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao):** Sir, I am grateful to you for this permission.

I made a statement in this House on 8-8-1967 in which I explained the position regarding the strike notice given by the All India Port and Dock Workers Federation at the major ports. The Minister for Labour and I have had full and frank discussions with the representatives of the Federation during the last three days and I am glad to say that the following agreed conclusions on the main issues have been reached with the Federation and the notice of strike is being withdrawn immediately. There will, therefore, be no strike.

"Pay" for purposes of Provident Fund, Gratuity, (i.e. special contribution) and *ex-gratia* payment, will mean "basic wages" as defined in the Employees' Provident Fund Act plus the allowances which are specified in the Act for purposes of deducting Provident Fund contributions, and interim relief, city compensatory allowance and piece-rate earnings wherever applicable. This will exclude house rent allowance in any form and over-time allowance. This shall have effect from 1-8-1967 in respect of Provident Fund and special contribution; and in respect of *ex-gratia* payments based on the accounting year 1966-67 payable in 1967-68.

In case of resignation a worker will be entitled to receive special contribution to the Provident Fund only if he has completed 10 years service. In case of dismissal he will be entitled to it only after completion of 15 years of service. In such cases where the employer has suffered any monetary loss due to the misconduct of the employee, the amount of loss caused by such misconduct shall be deducted from the amount of his special contribution payable to him.

Fifty per cent of the additional amount that would thus become payable to an employee on account of *ex-gratia* payment due to the enlargement of the definition of "pay" will

be credited to the provident fund account wherever this amount exceeds Rs. 20 in a year. As regards the claim for enhancement of the *ex-gratia* payment from four per cent to 20 per cent for the accounting year 1966-67, Minister of Transport and Shipping stated that the matter could be considered only in the light of comprehensive information on the various issues involved, particularly the capacity of the ports to pay. It was agreed that a Committee or Commission of Enquiry will be set up to go into the economics of Port working. The terms of reference will include, among others, the capacity of the Port authorities to make any such additional payments.

The Minister of Labour and I would like to express our appreciation of the whole-hearted co-operation and constructive attitude taken by the Federation in these discussions.

**Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the light of the fact that he has succeeded in making an agreement with the leaders of the Federation, I am not going to press my adjournment motion. May I have an assurance, in the light of your experience, because the assurances which gave cause for strike notice were given by you when you were holding the portfolio, now in regard to the appointment of a committee or a commission from the hon. Minister—he has shown good tact and I wish him well—that there will be no delaying tactics as in the past and that a committee or a commission will be appointed without any further delay?

**Dr. V. K. E. V. Rao:** I can assure him there will be no question of any delay.

18.11 hrs

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister to reply to the Food debate.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara):** He can reply tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Only the reply to the debate.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Let us have it tomorrow.

**Shri Randhir Singh (Rohtak):** I was speaking last time. . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** We have got only two days more and we have got so many other important things. Let him reply today.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** He will take only 10 to 15 minutes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Why not 10 minutes now?

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Before we go to other business, he can reply. He will take only 10 or 15 minutes.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore):** 10 minutes will not do. We have participated in the debate and we want to ask some questions. Let him take whatever time he wants to take.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not mind postponing it. But we have got only two days more and there are so many other important things.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Let him reply now. But 10 minutes will not do.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right; the hon. Minister.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour):** Before the hon. Minister begins, may I ask one confirmation? It has come out in the papers here that West Bengal will receive 15,000 tonnes of rice and 95,000 tonnes of wheat this month. It says:

"A firm commitment to this effect was made by the Union Food Minister, Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, when his counterpart from the State, Dr. P. C. Ghosh, met him today."

We want a confirmation from him to that effect.