

(d) the total amount the Central Government have advanced to Food Corporation of India for procurement in Orissa in 1966-67 and 1967-68 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) 1.96 lakh tonnes rice and paddy in terms of rice was procured during the crop season 1966-67 (November 66 to October 1967). Out of this, 99 thousand tonnes was exported from the State. Crop season 1967-68 started only on 1-11-67. The total quantity procured during 1967-68 so far has not been reported by the State Government. It has, however, been reported that upto 15-11-67, 887 tonnes of rice had been despatched outside the State.

(b) No information is available regarding the target, if any, of procurement for 1968-69 crop year fixed by Orissa Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No amount has been advanced by the Central Government to the Food Corporation specifically for procurement in Orissa. The Government of India place at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India monies by way of loans. These and the cash credit facility from the State Bank of India is utilized by the Corporation in the various States depending on the quantum of procurement.

PLAN ALLOCATIONS FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1257. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to State :

(a) whether the plan allocations for Food and Agriculture for Orissa for 1968-69 have been finalised after discussion with State Government;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this purpose Schemewise; and

(c) the amount allotted for 1967-68 and whether it has been fully utilized ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Plan allocations for Food and Agriculture for Orissa for 1968-69 have not so far been finalised. Preliminary discussions were held in the Working Group on Agriculture on the 8th and 9th November, 1967, in which proposals of the State Government for Schemes in the Agricultural Sector were considered. The recommendations of the Working Group are under the considerations of the Planning Commission.

(c) An outlay of Rs. 8.22 crores was approved for agricultural programmes in the Annual Plan of Orissa for 1967-68. The figure of amount utilised will be known after the year 1967-68 is over.

POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

1258. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Orissa at present ;

(b) the number of such Post Offices accommodated in the private rented buildings; and

(c) the annual rent being paid for these office buildings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) 4,710.

(b) 387.

(c) Rs. 2,67,526.19.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STRIKE BY DOCK WORKERS IN CALCUTTA

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबेर) : मैं अविलम्ब-नीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर ध्यान, रोजगार और पुनर्वासि मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“कलकत्ता के डाक वर्कर्सों की हड़ताल।”

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) :

The National Union of Waterfront Workers and the Calcutta Dock Workers Union served identical notices on the Dock Labour Board on the 4th October, 1967 that they proposed to go on strike after the 18th October, 1967. The demands listed out in the notices were :—

- (1) Nationalisation of Stevedoring system and pending such nationalisation removal of the Administrative Body of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board;
- (2) Registration of all categories of workers including listed salt workers, stitchers, baggers, etc.;
- (3) Preference to Dock Workers' relatives in the matter of recruitment;
- (4) House rent allowance.

The conciliation proceedings were taken up by the Regional Labour Commissioner, but no settlement of the dispute was possible. He submitted his failure report on the 19th October, 1967. Immediately I called the representatives of the workers for a discussion on 25th October. During these discussions it was pointed out that nationalisation of stevedoring system was a question of broad policy and that it cannot be decided in isolation for the Calcutta port alone. But so far as their complaints regarding unsatisfactory working of the Administrative body is concerned, I shall look into it. Accordingly, I called a meeting of the representatives of the Stevedores on the 6th November and suggested to them that they should hold a bipartite meeting with the workers' representatives where all the specific complaints should be carefully gone into. The issues which remain unsettled will be referred to the Chairman of the Board in the first instance and later, if necessary, to the Central Government for decision.

So far as the registration of all categories of workers was concerned, as this is likely to increase the financial burdens on transport, especially on handling of foodgrains. I suggested that we should examine the economics of the whole question relating

to registration of workers and that for that purpose the Government would appoint a One-man Expert Committee.

On the question of House rent allowance, I had suggested that the question of House rent allowance would be referred to the Wage Board. In fact, it has already been done so by now. As for the appointment of relatives, the Calcutta Dock Labour Board have expressed their willingness to deal with all hard cases sympathetically. Thus, the House will see that I was fully seized of the issues and was trying to bring about a settlement.

While action was being taken to set up the Expert Committee and a reference was made to the Wage Board on House rent allowance, I was informed that the Unions have decided to stage the strike as the notice period was expiring. Immediately I sent a message to the Unions not to go on strike. Notwithstanding our efforts, the workers went on a strike from the 15th November afternoon. I regret the hasty action at a time when the ships carrying food are required to be unloaded at this critical period of food shortage in Calcutta and when their demands were being considered. While I do not deny the right of the workers to strike, I cannot help feeling that in the present case the action of workers was ill-advised, causing difficulties to the community at large.

While this was going on, the West Bengal Government were also making efforts to persuade the workers not to go on strike.

When I discussed this question of strike with the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal on the 16th, he conveyed to me that the workers would like to meet me. I readily accepted his suggestion and requested him to inform the trade union representatives that I would be meeting them on the 18th. I also requested him to appeal to the workers on my behalf to resume work. Accordingly, the majority of the workers numbering about 17,000 resumed work on the 16th. The strike is now confined to listed workers numbering about 4,500.

The representatives of the workers met me on the 18th as fixed and again we continued the discussion on the 20th. During

the discussion several proposals and counter proposals were made. I ultimately offered to them on 20th evening that registration with full benefits will be effected, provided the minimum norms of output laid down in the Incentive Schemes, accepted by the Unions in January, 1965, were achieved. I have also agreed to remove any practical difficulties that might be there in achieving these targets. The workers' representatives wanted time to consider this offer and to discuss among themselves. They have said they would reply today.

I would, however, appeal to the workers and their leaders that in view of these developments they should call off the strike immediately in their own interest and in the larger interest of the country.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling) : That is not the whole truth.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not been called. You cannot get up like that.

श्री मधु लिमये : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि इस वक्त देश की स्थिति नाजुक है और हम विदेशों से आने वाले अनाज पर निर्भर रहते हैं, इसलिये अगर ऐसी हालत में डाक मजदूरों की हड़ताल होती है, तो अनाज के आयात पर उसका असर पड़ेगा। इसलिये उनकी राय में यह हड़ताल करना उचित नहीं था। लेकिन अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका ध्यान मंत्री महोदय के वक्तव्य के दूसरे हिस्से की ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ जिस में उन्होंने कहा है:

"Ultimately I offered to them on the 20th evening that registration with full benefits will be effected."

तो अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो काम वह पहले कर सकते थे वह उन्होंने हड़ताल होने के बाद 20 तारीख को किया और हमेशा वह सरकारी नीति होती है कि जब समझौता करना चाहिए उस वक्त सरकार अड़ जाती है और अपनी मजबूती दिखाने लग जाती है लेकिन फिर हड़ताल के बाद वही चीज करते हैं जो पहले करनी चाहिए थी। इसलिए क्या मन्त्री

महोदय आइन्दा के लिए सदन को यह आश्वासन देंगे कि वह हड़ताल होने के पहले ही कोशिश करेंगे समझौता करने की ओर कोई न कोई हल निकालने की ताकि मजदूरों के ऊपर हड़ताल करने की नौबत न आये और यह निवेदन करने का आपके लिए श्री मौका न आये कि अल्टीमेटली आई आफर्ड दिस ?

श्री हाथी : बिल्कुल मैं सहमत हूँ मधु लिमये जी के साथ और वही बात मैंने पहले भी कही थी कि जैसे ही आप आउटपुट का एश्योरेंस दे दें मैं रजिस्ट्रेशन करने के लिए तैयार हूँ लेकिन तब उन्होंने कहा कि पहले रजिस्ट्रेशन करो तब हम देखेंगे इसलिये यह सब बात चली। लेकिन कल और तरसों (18 और 20) अलग-अलग मैंने कहा कि प्रोपोजल्स और काउंटर प्रोपोजल्स देने के बाद फिर कल शाम को बात हुई। मैं सहमत हूँ कि पहले से करना चाहिए और मैंने किया भी था।

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mandsaur) : Sir, the right of the workers to strike is inalienable. It is on account of the unimaginative handling of the situation by the Dock Labour Board there and by the Ministry here that the strike has occurred. actually, in such sensitive sectors, not only should the officials be sagacious but they must also, I should say, cultivate a sympathetic attitude towards labour and be alive to their aspirations, their needs, desires and demands. In view of this I would ask the Minister whether he would institute a committee of enquiry—may be a one man Commission—to enquire into the dock labour question and see whether the administration is all right, whether the constitution of the Board is in proper order and whether the machinery is functioning in a manner which is sympathetic to the workers.

Secondly what steps has the Minister taken to ensure that such a situation is not created again in which the workers have to strike for their legitimate demands ?

SHRI HATHI : I am rather surprised that after my statement, the hon Member should say that there was negligence or careless handling on the part of the Ministry.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Primarily of the officials.

SHRI HATHI : Yes, of the officials. It is not so. I will explain the position. In fact they wanted that they should be registered and the benefits attached to the registration should be given to them. This would mean a lot of financial burden and responsibility on the part of the Government. I was agreeable and I said, "Yes; this can be done, provided the output as you have agreed, is adhered to." They said, "No; registration first. We do not want any benefit; we want registration. Now, once the Government registers them, all the benefits will have to be given and I cannot go back from that. So, I persuaded them and I said, "You will get registration; According to the agreement, if more output is given, certainly we shall pay you more." And they also understood the point and that is why yesterday evening they said they will now consider it. There is no question of delay. The whole question was done into threadbare with the union representatives. They wanted that registration should be done first. I said that as soon as registration is given all the benefits will flow and I cannot deny them; I added that let us all show that we are prepared to work, and as Labour Minister, I have been advising my friends and the labour workers that let us show that we are not simply going on strike for money; we are also prepared to work. This is the point that I want they should work, and they are able to get more, and money will follow.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : What about the first part of my question—an enquiry into the dock labour board working? He has not replied to it at all.

SHRI HATHI : About the Dock Labour Board, three of them are union leaders with whom I have been talking. The Dock Labour Board consists of the union leaders themselves.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi) : I would like the Minister to clarify if this is not an illegal strike and if it is an illegal strike, what is the consistency in a Minister of Government continuing these negotiations. (*Interruption*). It is an illegal strike because your proposal has not been accepted and they have proceeded to go on strike. Secondly, I would like the Minister to inform this House and the country whether these strikes—a small section, and in this case, it is about 4,500 people—are not going to immobilise the whole organisation, whether these strikes are not putting out of schedule the railway and shipping arrangements, whether they are not encouraging pilfering of goods lying on both sides, whether they are not adding to the cost to the consumer? In view of the fact that there are ample provisions in the Industrial Disputes Act, why does not the Government follow the excellent principle of the communists and ban strikes? If they are not prepared to follow that excellent example, will they take care to project the loss that arises to the public and to the Government from such strikes, because such parleys with people who break the law and injure the interests of the country are not consistent with good government?

SHRI HATHI : About the first question, I would say that the strike is not illegal, because they have given notice. So far as immobilisation of work is concerned, the work has not suffered so much because 17,000 workers are working and the Bengal Government also have cooperated. They have given the National Volunteer Force to work. But with one thing I agree, *viz.*, on matters which are being discussed, where the negotiations are going on, where the attitude of the management is reasonable, they should not go on strike.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : The dock workers required almost 12 years of continuous struggle to have them enlisted and as a result of the decision given by the Vasiht Committee, now naturally they are again struggling to get themselves registered. The point of difference between the ministry and the workers is this. The Labour Minister wants that they should put up the quantum of work. But the labour says, they are not against increasing the quantum of work, but the quantum that

has been set by the ministry is too high, and should be reduced to a reasonable quantum. Secondly, may I request the minister to create such a condition in that area so that the labourers may be convinced and a machinery evolved so that whenever the question of unloading foodgrains from ships arises, they do not resort to strike ?

SHRI HATHI : About the norm being high, yesterday they had not mentioned that. But I have told them that if they experience any difficulty or hardship either due to excessive work or due to other technicalities, I shall certainly look into it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : What about the machinery ?

SHRI HATHI : We shall try to evolve that.

श्री मरंडी (राजमहल) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस हड़ताल से एक दिन में सरकार को कितनी हानि हुई है ?

श्री हाथी : इसका तो हिसाब नहीं किया। लेकिन हानि कोई खास नहीं हुई है क्योंकि 17 हजार आदमी तो काम कर रहे हैं।

12-3) Hours

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

RE. : STATE OF HARYANA

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : आप पहले मेरा निवेदन सुन लें। मंत्री महोदय वक्तव्य देने वाले हैं, इसकी सूचना सदन में नहीं है। उसके पहले हम लोगों ने समाचारपत्रों की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर स्थान-प्रस्ताव की सूचना दी है। अगर यह रिपोर्ट सही है कि केन्द्र सरकार हरियाणा में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू करने जा रही है, तो हमारे दृष्टि में यह निर्णय अनुचित है, असंवैधानिक है और संविधान पर कुठाराघात करनेवाला है। आप गृह मंत्री महोदय से पूछें कि क्या अपनी बुद्धिमत्ता को ताक पर रख कर केन्द्र सरकार ने ऐसा निर्णय किया है और अगर ऐसा निर्णय किया है तो आप हमें केन्द्र सरकार की निन्दा करने

का अवसर दें और हम चाहेंगे कि इस मामले में आज ही बहस की जाये।

श्री रणधीर सिंह (रोहतक) : स्पोकार साहब, यह हरियाणा के लिये निजात का दिन है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमें इस बला से जल्द से जल्द कब छुटकारा मिले। यह आपरेशन जल्द से जल्द मुकम्मल करना है। यहां पर सिर्फ मिनिस्ट्री का सवाल नहीं है, यहां पर तो लेजिस्लेचर को तोड़ना है... (ब्यवधान)... इसकी जल्द से जल्द सफाई हो, इन्होंने जो लूट वहां पर मचा रखी है, देश उससे बदमान हो रहा है, वहां की पोलिटिक्स बदनाम हो रही है... (ब्यवधान)...

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order I request all hon. Members to please resume their seats.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : In the name of corruption they want to impose President's Rule. We have tabled an adjournment motion. We do not want to hear the Minister.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : हरियाणा गवर्णमेन्ट को सपोर्ट करने से ज्यादा बड़ी बेशर्मी की बात दूसरी नहीं है। मैं किसी पार्टी के हक में नहीं हूँ, मैं तो सिर्फ यह चाहता हूँ कि इसको वहां खत्म करना चाहिये। यह निजात का दिन है।... (ब्यवधान)...

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. The hon. Member must sit down now. I have heard him. I have given him the privilege of shouting (Interruption). Again he is getting up. This is not proper.

This was brought to my notice this morning. It is only a question of fixing up the procedure. I read about it in the newspaper this morning as all of you have done. This morning itself I received adjournment motions from hon. friends. Shri Vajpayee sent it to my house and when I came here there were a number of them a bundle of them. Therefore, I thought it would be better if we asked the Home Minister to let us know the position because we are not sure about what the actual position