

of Inquiry Commission appointed to enquire into the causes of the pollution of water of river Ganges near Monghyr. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1485/68].

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) The Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Sixth Amendment Order, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 942 in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1968.
- (ii) The Kerosene (Fixation of Ceiling Prices) Seventh Amendment Order, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1172 in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1486/68].

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. K. L. Rao.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat): On a point of order. During the last 15 days the flood situation has worsened in India especially in Kerala and people have suffered so much. Instead of having some time for discussion...

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order here. He can ask for a discussion. But is this a point of order? I cannot, by any stretch of imagination, call this a point of order.

Dr. K. L. Rao.

STATEMENT ON FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the flood situation in the country. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1492/68].

REVISED ESTIMATES OF UP STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

DR. K. L. RAO: On behalf of Shri Siddheshwar Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Budget

Estimates for the year 1968-69 and Revised Estimates for the year 1967-68 of the UP State Electricity Board under section 61 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 15th April, 1968, issued by the President in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1493/68].

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. STRIKE BY NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES

MR. SPEAKER: Now; Shri Hathi.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I rise on a point of order. Rule 376 (2) says:

"A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment." . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can raise a point of order at any time except during the Question Hour. Let him state what his point of order is.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Rule 376 (2) states that a point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment. The business before the House at the moment is that Shri Hathi is going to make a statement regarding the strike by the newspaper employees. My point of order is this. Many of us have tabled calling-attention-notices on this particular issue. I do not question your judgment, and that is final as far as we are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought the hon. Member would wait for a minute because I myself wanted to say something regarding this. I wanted to give him some information.

Already, Shri S. M. Joshi had raised this question in my Chamber. I said that it was an important matter and we should have a discussion. I am allowing an hour's discussion. A calling-attention-notice would only permit of two or three questions. I thought that I could make this

[Mr. Speaker]

announcement after the statement had been made by the Minister. I have already assured Shri S. M. Joshi that I would permit an hour's discussion and let me fix up the time by finding out when it may be possible to have it. No doubt, the calling-attention- notices were there, but I thought that instead of one or two Members putting questions, four or five Members could say something for five to ten minutes each. I have already told Shri S. M. Joshi that I would permit a discussion. I am glad that the hon. Member has raised it. I thought that I could announce it after the statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Will you allow a discussion while the strike is going on or only after the strike is over?

MR. SPEAKER: I shall have to find out some convenient time for this. I do not consider questions in the light of what is happening outside, but I have to consider the time-factor here inside the House and I shall fix some convenient time.

SHRI M. L. SONDHY (New Delhi): We do not have any newspapers now and already we do not know what is happening in Czechoslovakia . . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I completely agree with you, Sir. I would only request you to kindly allow a discussion today, because otherwise it will lose its importance.

MR. SPEAKER: After all, we have already fixed up a half-an-hour debate today. I cannot postpone it. Let me see. I have assured the hon. Member that I would permit an one-hour debate if possible and I shall fix up the time, and I shall try to do my best.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI): The House will recall that the newspaper employees had decided to go on strike earlier also in April, 1968 . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): And before that also.

SHRI HATHI: . . . because a large number of employers had not implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board for non-journalists

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: And Government have been a silent spectator. It is a very serious matter.

SHRI HATHI: Efforts were made to avert the strike, and, after prolonged discussions, an interim agreement was reached at Delhi on the 23rd April, 1968. A copy of the agreement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. (See statement before). According to this agreement, the employers were to make with effect from 1st January, 1968, an interim payment of an amount equal to 70 per cent of the difference between the existing wages of the employees and the wages that would have been due to them under the Wage Board recommendations. The workers' Federation agreed to call off the strike. Both the parties agreed to enter into negotiations to settle the disputed issues connected with the recommendations of the Wage board for non-journalist employees and their implementation.

In pursuance of this agreement, the representatives of the IENS and the AINEF started bipartite discussions but unfortunately a controversy arose on the status of the Delhi Agreement. The IENS claimed that the interim agreement was recommendatory so far as its members were concerned whereas the Federation insisted that it should be held as binding.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: And the employers said that it was not mandatory and they were telling so many cock and bull stories.

SHRI HATHI: If the hon. Member had a little patience, I would have referred to that myself in my statement.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: We have had enough patience. We have shown patience for one year. But Government have sold themselves to the employers.

SHRI HATHI: This resulted in a deadlock and the federation gave another call for a strike from the 23rd July, 1968.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: And very rightly.

SHRI HATHI: I met the representatives of both sides on the 17th July. I persuaded the parties to resume negotiations on the basis that the agreement arising out of these would be binding on the employers and unions to be specified in the agreement as having expressed their consent to accept the terms of agreement. These negotiations started. Unfortunately, these negotiations between the IENS and the Federation continued till 20th July did not lead of only those newspapers of classes I, final implementation of the Wage Board's recommendations. The strike applies for the present to employees of only those newspapers of classes I, II & III (seven groups of newspapers in all), which have not implemented the award. It does not apply to employees of newspapers of lower classes, namely classes IV, V, VI, and VII. As explained by me in this House on earlier occasions, the recommendations of the Non-journalists Wage Board are not enforceable statutorily and implementation has to be secured through persuasion and advice only. On the 28th July I have again met the representatives of the workers and the newspapers under strike. I have initiated discussions to resolve the dispute so far as these establishments are concerned. I am awaiting the results of the discussions which have started today.

* STATEMENT

Agreement between the representatives of Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society, New Delhi and the All India Newspaper Employees Federation reached at New Delhi on 23rd April, 1968.

PRESENT

Representing employers

SHRI J. M. D' SOUZA, President, Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society, New Delhi.

Representing employees

1. SHRI S. Y. KOLHATKAR, President, All India Newspaper Employees Federation.

2. SHRI K. L. KAPUR, General, Secretary, All India Newspaper Employees Federation.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

In connection with the implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board for non-journalist employees, the representatives of Indian & Eastern Newspapers Society and the All India Newspaper Employees Federation and of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists held discussions at New Delhi on the 22nd and 23rd April, 1968. As a result of these prolonged discussions, the parties have arrived at the following agreement. The employers agree:—

- (a) To make w.e.f. 1-1-68 an interim payment of an amount equal to 70 per cent of the difference between the existing wages of the employees on 1-1-68 and the wages that would have been due to them under the Wage Board recommendations on that date.
- (b) The arrears due to the employees under clause 1(a) shall be paid within three weeks from today; However, in respect of newspapers

[Shri Hathi]

falling in classes 4, 5, 6, and 7, the time-limit for making such payment shall be six weeks from date.

- (c) That there will be no victimisation or unfair action detrimental to the interests of the employees.

2. The parties agree:—

- (a) To enter into negotiations immediately to settle the disputed issues connected with the recommendations of the Wage Board for non-journalist employees and their implementation.

- (b) To complete negotiations within a period of one month from date.

3. The employees on their part will try to resolve all outstanding issues relating to Wage Board recommendations in a peaceful and amicable manner without recourse to strike.

4. The employees further agree to call off the strike with effect from the morning of 24th April, 1968.

Representing employers

- Sd/- J. M. D'Souza.
Representing employees
1. Sd/- S. Y. Kolhtkar.
2. Sd/- K. L. Kapur.

NEW DELHI

April 23, 1968.

Before me

Sd/- O. Maheepathi
23-4-68

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Why should he not bring forward legislation to implement the recommendations of the wage board?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Government are giving them subsidised newsprint. They are allowing them import quota. They are also giving them advertisements and what not.

They have surrendered themselves wholly in the hands of the press tycoons.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already allowed a discussion and these points could be made during the discussion. I could allow more time also but my difficulty is this that one-hour discussion or half-an-hour discussion sometimes becomes a two-hour or three-hour discussion. That is the difficulty that it goes on sometimes till about 8 p.m. and that is what many Members are complaining of. If that is the position I wonder how I can adjust this.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : (बलरामपुर)
अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक घट में नहीं होगा।

श्री सु० अ० खां (कासगज) : 6 बज के बाद हाउस नहीं बड़ना चाहिए। बहुत एग्जर्शन हो जाता है।

MR. SPEAKER: I do not mind extension by ten or fifteen minutes but it should not be three hours or four hours.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara): Let us have this discussion between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. tomorrow.

SHRI S M. BANERJEE: Let us have this between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. tomorrow. We are prepared to sit.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to permit a discussion . . .

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : (दिल्ली सदर) :
जे सवेरे पेड्रिगट का मुंह देखना पड़ता है . .

MR. SPEAKER: At least now, fortunately we are getting one or two newspapers. If we miss these also we shall not get any newspapers at all. That means that there would be a black-out of news.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Tomorrow, there will be no edition of the *Patriot* also, because the strike is in all the newspaper establishments.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): That is the reason why he wants a discussion tomorrow, because tomorrow there will be no paper and what happens today will not come out in the papers.

12.23½ hrs.

ARMY, AIR FORCE AND NAVAL LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): On behalf of Shri Swaran Singh, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Army and Air Force (Disposal of Private Property) Act, 1950 and the Navy Act, 1957."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: I introduce the Bill.

12.24 hrs.

RICE-MILLING INDUSTRY (REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL

—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Annasahib Shinde on the 26th July, 1968, namely:—

"That the Bill to amend the Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Tulsidas Jadhav may now resume his speech.

12.24½ hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

श्री तुलसी दास जाधव (बारामती) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो राइस मिलिंग इंडस्ट्री रेगुलेशन बिल है, उस के ऊपर शुक्रवार के दिन मैं बोल रहा था। उस दिन मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य यह था कि जब पब्लिक सेक्टर में हमारी इंडस्ट्री लगती है और इंडस्ट्री लगाने के लिए भारत ने कबूल किया है, कांस्टीट्यूशन में यह कहा है कि कोओपरेटिव कामनवैलथ के रास्ते पर हमें जाना है, तो यह राइस मिलिंग के बारे में जो यह प्राइवेट मिलिंग चलती है उस को किसी रीति से कोओपरेटिव सेक्टर हो या स्टेट सेक्टर हो, उस में लाना गवर्नमेंट का लाजिमी फर्ज हो जाता है। इस प्ब्लिट से देखा जाय तो उस दिन मैंने कहा था कि जहां डिक्टेटरशिप चलती है वहां किसी न किसी रीति से यह चीज लाने के लिए वह नौकरशाही के तरीके के खिलाफ दूसरा तरीका इस्तेमाल करते हैं और प्राइवेट प्रापर्टी अपने काबू में ये कर वह स्टेट की तरह से या कोओपरेटिव सेक्टर की तरह से चलाते हैं। इस रीति से हिन्दुस्तान को भी यह बात करनी होगी और भ्रष्टचन तो है लोगों को साथ से कर चलने की और उस में फिर दिक्कत पैदा होती है कि जो भाई कभी-कभी समाजवाद की तरफ अपना रुख दिखाते हैं, वह जब इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करना होता है तो हिचकिचाते हैं, यह भी अनुभव हम लोगों ने इस हाउस में देखा है। लेकिन कुछ भी हो, यह तो हिन्दुस्तान को करना ही होगा। हमारा यह राइस मिलिंग का काम प्रोसेसिंग इंडस्ट्री का काम है। यह जितने मीन्स आफ प्रोडक्शन हैं, यह स्टेट के हों या कोओपरेटिव सेक्टर के दायरे में आयें, इस के वरिपर इस देश में कोई चारा नहीं है। हमारा जो गवर्नमेंट प्रिन्सल है वह जमीन से पैदा हो या और कहीं से, उस में जो, धान, मेज काटन, जूट, गुगुर केन और प्राउन्ड नट और माइन्स के और मिनरल्स के जितने नेचुरल वैल्य हैं, उन सभी में यह