

MR. SPEAKER : The Members will be informed accordingly.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Sir, I would like to know why Shri Kamraj is not coming to the House. Is he having difficulties with his own party? What is wrong with him? Is he hale and hearty?

MR. SPEAKER : His name is not in the list.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Hundred and twenty-eighth and Hundred and Fourteenth Reports

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR (Sambalpur) : I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee :

- (1) Hundred and twenty-eighth Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs-Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- (2) Hundred and fourteenth Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Eighty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Industrial Development, Internal Trade and Company Affairs-Recognition of additional capacity in the Barrel Industry in spite of its being on the banned list

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER
TO S. No. Q. 532

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : In answer to...

MR. SPEAKER : All the statements may be laid on the Table.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I beg to lay on the Table a statement correcting the answer given on the 10th December, 1969 to Starred Question No. 532 by Shri Y. Gadlinganna Gowd regarding forged import licences.

Statement

In answer to part (a) Starred Question No. 532 on 10th December, 1969 I had stated

that since 1965, 24 cases had come to notice in which forged import licences valued at about Rs. 71.76 lakhs were reported to have been used. It has now been noticed that the correct position is as under :

"Since 1965, 25 cases have come to notice in which forged import licences valued at about Rs. 75.50 lakhs are reported to have been used.

STATEMENT CORRECTING ANSWER
TO S. Q. NO. 11

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement correcting the answer given on the 23rd February, 1970 to Starred Question No. 11 regarding oil barrels and bitumen drums supplied to the Indian Oil Corporation.

Statement

In reply to part (b) of the Starred Question No. 11 answered by me in the Lok Sabha on 23-2-1970. I stated that "A statement showing the names of the parties who quoted against these tenders along with their rates and respective terms and conditions is placed on the table of the House. (Annexures A-I and A-II)". I am taking this opportunity to state that 14 parties had quoted against Public Tender No. OP/1/69 and 19 against Tender No. OP/2/69 but the two annexures contain the names of only those parties, which were considered to be equipped to fabricate barrels and drums. The quotations of the remaining parties were eliminated as they were either not equipped themselves with adequate plant or machinery or had not quoted in the prescribed proforma.

STATEMENT RE STRIKE BY WORKERS
IN HEAVY ELECTRICALS, HARDWAR

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement on the strike by workers in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, Hardwar.

Statement

On the 22nd April, 1970, the Heavy Electrical Workers Trade Union of Heavy Electricals Limited, Hardwar submitted a list of 12 demands to the Management and stated that if these demands were not fulfilled within 15 days, the Union would go on strike with effect from 7th May, 1970. Immediately on receipt of this notice, the Chairman, BHEL, was asked to take immediate steps in the matter. The Chairman, BHEL, immediately requested the Deputy Labour Commissioner to initiate discussions at Hardwar and also contacted the State Government in the Labour Department to help the management in reaching a settlement with labour.

The strike commenced from the morning of 12th May, 1970 and is still continuing. The Chairman, BHEL, had informed the concerned union through its President that detailed discussions on all the demands of labour could commence from 15th May, 1970, if the strike was called off. Despite this, it appears from the latest reports that the strike has not been called off. The strike has been declared illegal by the Deputy Labour Commissioner. Shri Kashi Nath Pandey, M P, President of the Heavy Electrical Workers Trade Union, Hardwar, met the Chairman of the BHEL in New Delhi, on the 16th May, 1970, and had certain preliminary discussions with him.

While the Union representatives had submitted a list of 12 demands consisting of various service matters and amenities, the most important demand appears to be regarding the continuance of Project Allowance on the basis of what was sanctioned prior to 1st April, 1969. Government policy in the matter of project allowance to public sector during the construction stage is, that the allowance should compensate for lack of amenities such as housing, schools, markets, dispensaries, during the construction stage and that this allowance should be tapered off in stages with the introduction of these amenities, till it is finally withdrawn. This policy is being consistently followed in all the three constituent units of the BHEL. The project allowance in the Tiruchi Boiler Plant of BHEL was withdrawn from 1st April, 1966, while in the Hyderabad Unit of BHEL, the project allowance was discontinued with effect from 1st April, 1970.

The situation in the Heavy Electrical

Equipment Plant at Hardwar has substantially altered since the time when the Unit was commenced and project allowance sanctioned. At present there is a full-fledged hospital with 75 beds, English and Hindi medium schools, water, electricity, markets, community centres, clubs, transport facilities and 2,300 quarters for workers. In view of these amenities the Company has decided to reduce the project allowance gradually in consonance with the general policy laid down and in order to avoid undue hardship by its total withdrawal in one stage. This action is not arbitrary nor is it designed to cause hardship to the workers. Any revision of the scale of project allowance which has now been decided would result in invidious discrimination in favour of the Hardwar unit of BHEL as against other units of the same concern.

The Management has already shown its willingness to discuss the demands of the labour and it is hoped that the Union would respond in a positive manner. It is extremely unfortunate that this strike has taken place in a public sector unit. Any strike invariably involves considerable loss of production, particularly in an undertaking of this magnitude. It is essential that any differences between labour and management are settled in a spirit of tolerance and mutual goodwill. I would appeal to the labour to return to work as early as possible. In that case, I am confident that all outstanding disputes can be peacefully settled by negotiations between labour and the management. What I would plead for is a return to normal working in this important public sector undertaking, which I am sure the entire House will endorse.

SHRI K. N. PANDEY (Padrauna): Sir, I want a clarification on this statement.

MR. SPEAKER: No clarification.

SHRI K. N. PANDEY: In the statement which the Minister made in the Rajya Sabha he stated that the strike commenced

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow any clarification. I cannot throw away the procedure to the winds.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, when we raised this issue yesterday of 8,000 employees of the Bharat Heavy Electricals

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

being on strike, you asked the Minister to make a statement. As the strike is still continuing, why could the Minister not send Shri Raghunath Reddy to Hardwar to settle the dispute?

SHRI K. N. PANDEY: Does the Minister want the strike to continue? Otherwise, why does he not initiate talks to settle the strike?

STATEMENT RE : SUGARCANE SITUATION IN U. P. AND BIHAR

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding Sugarcane situation in U. P. and Bihar.

Statement

In view of the substantial increase in the area under sugarcane this year, Government had anticipated early in the season that it would be necessary for the sugar mills to prolong their working season to be able to crush all available cane in their factory areas. To enable them to do so, Government had announced in October, 1969 the grant of a rebate of Rs. 8/- per quintal in excise duty on all sugar produced by the factories during 1969-70 season in excess of 105% of that produced during 1968-69. In addition, the Government of Uttar Pradesh announced a remission of 25 paise per quintal in the purchase tax on cane bought by sugar factories in excess of 05% of last year's purchases, the remission being available only to those factories which had started crushing on or before 15th November, 1969. In addition, the State Government announced a substantial liberalisation of its policy regarding licensing of power crushers in the reserved areas of sugar factories.

Some doubts were recently expressed that the entire cane available in the factory areas may not be crushed by the sugar factories before they close down. All the sugar producing States were, therefore, addressed to ascertain the position and to emphasize on them the importance and urgency of taking all necessary measures to ensure that the available cane in the factory areas was crushed before they close down. The

Government of U. P. have intimated that in order to provide a further incentive to the mills to crush all the available cane, they have announced total remission of purchase tax on cane bought by sugar mills after 15th May, 1970. They have also intimated that most of the factories in western and central U. P., where the problem of excess cane is more acute, will continue crushing operations in June and some even into July. The State Government are keeping a close watch on the situation and cane is being diverted from one area to another from time to time as necessary. So far diversion and re-adjustments have been arranged in respect of 60 lakh quintals of cane and further diversion will be made as and when necessary and possible.

As regards Bihar, the State Government have intimated that the Cane Department has been taking necessary action to ensure that all sugarcane available in the reserved areas of the factories is crushed before they close down and that none of it is likely to be left uncrushed at the end of the current season. 24 out of the 26 factories that worked during the current season have already closed down after crushing the entire cane in their areas.

STATEMENT RE : SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF BIHAR AND RAJASTHAN

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the famine conditions in certain parts of Bihar and Rajasthan.

Statement

The Government of Bihar have intimated that scarcity conditions prevail in the Dharbanga District and large parts of the Districts of Champaran, Purnea, Saharsa and Singhbhum; these districts have been declared as scarcity-affected areas. About a crore of the State's population has been reportedly stricken by a drought-induced scarcity. Relief measures have been undertaken to provide employment. A detailed report on the extent and severity of scarcity conditions prevailing in the State, and the relief measures undertaken, has not yet been received, however, from the State Government. On receipt of the report, the question of grant of Central financial assistance will be