

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 28, 1970/Sravana 6,
1892 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister will introduce the new Ministers.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East) : rose —

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara) : Sir, before she introduces the new Ministers I wish to submit that in the obituary reference yesterday there was no reference made to Shri Pattom Thanu Pillai, who died recently. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly. I know it for a fact and I think this House should also express its sentiment over his death.

MR. SPEAKER : You talked to me this morning about it. I shall find out about it.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : This matter was raised yesterday but it was said that he was not a member of the Constituent Assembly. This must be found out and in case he was a member, a reference must be made to his death also.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Sir, there is a point of order and a point of propriety in relation to the introduction of Ministers to be made by the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has every right to choose her flock of Ministers, determine their composition and shuffle them like a pack of cards or musical chairs, whatever it is. She is welcome to that. But this House, to which the Council of Ministers is responsible under the Constitution has a right to know, particularly at a point of time when there

is a massive reconstruction of the Cabinet, when important Members make a noise about their reluctance to be moved or demoted before they yield, when there is a near concentration of power in functions and that sort of thing in the Prime Minister.....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : She has got the right.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : It is a very important paper which talks about a one-woman band in the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not allow this point of order.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : You must first of all listen to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already indicated the direction of your point of order. She has got the right to reshuffle her Cabinet.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Let me refer to rule 389 which gives you certain residuary powers and which entitles you to interpret the rules so that a healthy development of conventions takes place. We are a new Parliament functioning in a new context. Vitthalbhai Patel could do all sorts of things in subject India and if in the Parliament of independent India I want to see that Cabinet changes of a collective nature are explained by the Government before Parliament and the country, you are trying to put it down. I would like to know how we stand in regard to this. This is not a question of my having confidence or no confidence in the Ministry. That is a different question which will be agitated differently.

MR. SPEAKER : May I know how it is a point of order ?

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI (Howrah) : Sir, the point of order is not intelligible to us.

MR. SPEAKER : you want certain information.

SHRI. H. N. MUKERJEE : I do not want any information. The proceedings of the House are being interrupted in order to introduce physically certain new incumbents to the Ministry, while as a matter of principle the whole idea of change in the Cabinet, the expansion of the Ministry, the changes in portfolios and the case of reluctant Ministers should have been explained before Parliament before the introduction takes place. That is a point of principle. If this principle is not upheld by the operation of the Rules of Procedure, I do not know where we shall travel to.

MR. SPEAKER : This has been the convention of the House that when new Ministers are appointed, they are introduced to the House by the Prime Minister before the question Hour. The Prime Minister need not give any reasons for that.

THE PRIME MINISTER MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : With your permission, Sir, may I introduce to you and, through you, to the House my new colleagues Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Minister of Law and Social Welfare, Shri Perimal Ghosh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning, and Works, Housing and Urban Development (Shri Surendranath Dwivedy. He is a renewed Minister.) Shri Narendra Singh Mahida, Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudary, Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals, and Mines and Metals, Shri K.R. Ganesh, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Shri A.K. Kisku, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education and Youth Services, Shri R. S. Panj hazari, Deputy Minister in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri P. Parthasarathy, Deputy Minister in the Department of

Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Jagannath Pahadia, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation, Shri S. K. Tapuria (He has become purposeful again) and Shri Bishwanath Roy, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation... (Interruption).

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : What about the reshuffled Minister who had been insulted and whose portfolio had been altered... (Interruption).

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : The Prime Minister should have started by introducing herself with all the portfolios she has taken. (Interruption)

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर भी सुन लीजिए... (व्यवधान)...

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हनुमन्तय्या जी को हमारी बधाई दे दीजिए कि उनको कम से कम नौकरी मिल गई। यह तो भविष्य बतायेगा कि वे मन्त्री हैं या नौकर हैं। (व्यवधान)

SHRI PILOO MODY : The Prime Minister has left the House. So no question can be answered. (Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loss incurred by Durgapur Steel Plant due to Strikes and Bands

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- *31. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI :**
SHRI R. BARUA :
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI :
SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant has been incurring a loss of Rs. 1.2 crores per month due to strikes and bands;