

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : The Minister has stated in his statement that after inspection and review of certain wing, the employees had been downgraded. There were trade unions ; they had not been consulted. Even the Labour Minister of West Bengal has stated that *status quo* should be maintained. In spite of those facts, they are violating the fundamental right of employees which is guaranteed under the Industrial Disputes Act and also in the Constitution. It is a question why the man was downgraded. He has the right to make protest and he did so along with his colleagues, and the union took up the cause standing by him. The whole economic situation in West Bengal has been paralysed due to strike. It is high time that we took up the question of fundamental rights of employees. We urge upon the hon. Minister to take note of it so that a peaceful and honourable settlement can be arrived at. He has stated in his statement that an amicable settlement is to be arrived at. I would like to have a reply from the hon. Minister that if the demand of the employees is justified, then an amicable settlement can be arrived at. Otherwise, if this attitude which the hon. Minister has shown in this House is continued, then there can be no settlement. But shall I request the hon. Minister to be sympathetic to the cause of the employees of the Reserve Bank as well as the citizens of West Bengal and the citizens of India.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The only point to be answered in the hon. Member's question is that since the negotiations are now being conducted at the level of the Chief Minister of West Bengal with whom the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank had an exhaustive discussion, and the points of dispute have been narrowed down and the only point in dispute is now how to treat the strike period wages, does it not require that at least on this point of difference further negotiations could take place and the strike be called off ? The whole dispute has been now narrowed down only to the point as to how this strike period wages have got to be adjusted. For that also, the Reserve Bank has put forward a new formula before the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister and the Labour Minister have conveyed to the Class IV Employees' Union this new formula which they have not found acceptable.

I would appeal to the Members that since the issue has been narrowed down, let the

strike be called off now and normalcy restored and this narrow issue can be settled by any of the various machinery. They can even go to the Conciliation Officer or for adjudication. They can go to the Labour Court.

There is no question of not having any sympathy. But the question I have been trying to pose is that this issue which is a simple issue has triggered off such a huge dispute bringing the entire life of Calcutta to a stand-still. So, let the Government as well as yourselves see how this can be solved.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram) : I want to appeal to the Minister that instead of making it a prestige issue, the Government should take up the matter immediately and settle the matter at the earliest possible time

I would like to ask the Minister what amount of business was affected by the strike by Class IV staff of RBI. If it is not settled, the strike may spread over the whole county. So, this is not a simple issue. This is not a simple matter. Take it seriously and try to settle it at the earliest possible. I want to know whether the Central Government is going to take the initiative or not in the matter.

SHRI K.R. GANESH : About the amount of business affected, I have not got the figures.

About the other question, all efforts are being made to settle the matter as early as possible.

12.49 hrs.

RE. RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR KADAYANALLUR ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MR. SPEAKER : Papers to be laid.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) : I have sought your permission to raise a matter...

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM (Coimbatore) : You permitted me to raise the question about the railway accident near

Kadayanallur. Let the Minister make a statement. You can call upon the Minister to make a statement about the head-on collision of an Express train with a stationary train...

MR. SPEAKER : We informed him about it and we will remind him.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM : He would not reply to a short notice question nor would he take a call attention motion...

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : A very difficult bureaucrat.

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the Railway Minister about it.

12.50 hrs.

RE. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) : I have sought your permission to raise an important matter. This is with regard to the Demand that is coming up. How do you expect us to make up our mind and to exercise our judgment for or against the Demand ?

MR. SPEAKER : Not now ; the item is coming up at another time, not now.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : It relates to transitional allowances of rules of Indian States ; this is an exceptional Demand. This is not an enlargement of the existing Demand, but this is something different, we should have all the information. Otherwise it would be difficult for us to make up our mind on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : It is Item No. 11. It comes up at another time, not now.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Before we come to discuss this matter we must be in full possession of all information which would enable us to exercise our judgment. Otherwise how can we do it ? It should be your concern as it is the concern of ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already forwarded the letter to him...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : There was a question on this matter the other day and we were told by the Minister that Supplementary Demands are coming for some amounts to be given as transitional allowances. When questions were asked as to what were the details, what was the amount, how these were to be calculated, etc. Mr. Mir-dha said it was coming up in the Supplementary Grants. He said, all the detailed information will be given there. But now we don't find any such details here. That is the point.

MR. SPEAKER : I also thought of it when Mishraji invited my attention to it and I have forwarded your letter. Let us see what he says. But the item is coming up much later. Either it may come today or tomorrow. When it comes I will see ; in the meantime I hope I will have some information on the subject. Please don't think I have made up my mind on any issue ; I am quite open.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : It must be as much your concern in fact, your greater concern, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Let it come ; at that time. I will see.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJBAHADUR) : May I say for the information of Shri Mishraji, that for tomorrow we have already kept this Bill, Rulers of Indian States (Abolition of Privileges) Bill ? It is already there. It will be discussed. All the information that he wants will be given...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : That does not relate to this item.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not applied my mind yet over it. But, from common-sense point of view, I think, this Bill should have to come first and then only the Supplementary Grants. I do realise your keenness to do it, but at the same time, we are also bound by certain procedures and conventions. I would advise, you should first pass the Bill and then come for Supplementary Grants...