

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

to admit the motion which I sent you a couple of days earlier. Now I have been sent a copy of the memorandum from the Ministry concerned. I am not going into it. I am not personally satisfied with the arguments given here. You might have been satisfied. May I, therefore, request you, since I had tried to raise what I consider to be a serious Parliamentary problem, to find out some ways and means so that, perhaps, in your chamber or elsewhere as you decide, we could discuss this matter? I am not satisfied even though you may be satisfied with what has been communicated by the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite appreciate the way in which Prof. Mukerjee has said it. But the hon. Member, Shri Samar Guha, gets up and goes on and on without giving me any chance to give him the permission. He goes on with all excitement and disturbance in the House. That is not always good. There is a proper way of doing it. I would not have stopped him if he wanted to make a submission in a proper way. But he got up and went on and on. What I mean to say is that he should try to be fair. Then, he picks up quarrel with everybody in the House... (*Interruptions*). Order, order. You are grown up people, mature people; you have seen a lot of the world. Sometimes you should have the patience to listen.

So far as Mr. D. P. Dhar's visit was concerned...

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : To Murree.

MR. SPEAKER : To wherever it is, to Pakistan, to Murree or two Rawalpindi. So far as that is concerned, I had the Government's note and I was satisfied that it need not have been brought to the House.

AN HON. MEMBER : Is it secret ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not that much secret. But there are other sides of it also.

I asked the Secretary to supply copies to the hon. Members who wanted to have some information about it. Prof. Mukerjee

says that he is not satisfied. We can sit together and look into it. We can look into the points on which they are not satisfied...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : May I make a submission ?

MR. SPEAKER : When the Speaker is standing, nothing will go on record. You please sit down. That is a very bad habit. I condemn it. Do you think that when you stand, I must sit down? Don't make me sit down. You please sit down. I am on my legs. You should not be so impatient.

So far as the visits of other Ministers are concerned, I also agree with you that some information, factual or whatever it is, can be given. If there is something very secret or undiplomatic or whatever you call it, that can be conveyed to the Speaker and the Speaker convey it. But some sort of information can be given. When any Minister visits some other country—Mr. KhadiiKar went to Santiago—something should be mentioned. As much information as can be shared with the Members of this House should be given. You must take the House into confidence.

So far as Mr. D. P. Dhar's visit is concerned, we can sit together and look into the points on which they are not satisfied. So far as the visits of other Ministers are concerned I have already sent your views to them. Let us see what comes out of it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : May I with your permission, Sir, make a submission on what you have said just now? I will not take more than a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, in that case we should take the lunch hour today also. But most of the members have not been informed about it. (*Interruption*)

13.05 hrs.

RE: THREATENED JUTE STRIKE IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : This is about the jute strike in

West Bengal. We had given a call-attention notice on this. The strike is coming on 8th May. The hon. Labour Minister is here. He can apprise the House of the position.

MR. SPEAKER : You can mention about strike on Monday.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The strike is on Monday, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You always come like that. Last time also you came like that. (*Interruption*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : I am sure, Sir, you are aware of the magnitude of the problem. It involves millions of bellies. If the jute strike is allowed to come, it will mean a terrific, irreparable loss to the country's economy. Therefore, in order to help the Government, in order to do our duty as Members of this House, we had asked you, Sir, to use your good offices to request the Government to make a statement as to what steps they are taking to prevent the jute strike and to see that the employers are made to meet the legitimate demands of the jute workers.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is purely a Central matter, Sir. The hon. Minister of Foreign Trade, while replying to a question, said that he was negotiating. He has negotiated and has gone to Moscow. He is now in Moscow. But the Minister of Labour, Shri Khadilkar, is here. This matter has serious implications, apart from the strike which we welcome. The question is about jute industry where so much of foreign exchange is involved. Tomorrow is Saturday and the day after is Sunday. On Monday there is the strike. That is why I request you to ask the Minister to make a statement. Let the negotiations fail. We welcome the strike. But the jute mill-owners are trying to bully the workers. (*Interruption*)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Just one minute, Sir. You appreciated my anxiety when you said that I was impatient. I want to be impatient in defence of the rights of the House. I wanted to seek your permission. In the last two days when permission was not given, I did not raise it, Sir

MR. SPEAKER : You are a very good man. Kindly sit down.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : If I have given you trouble, please try to understand the spirit, Sir, that I was so anxious to raise it. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : About the jute strike, the question was raised. I have some information which I will share with the House. This morning I had discussions on telephone with Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Chief Minister of West Bengal. He is seized of the matter and he has communicated to me that, if all the efforts do not end in a settlement, perhaps, we would have to intervene. (*Interruption*) That is the present position. As I said, every effort is being made to avert the strike. (*Interruption*)

13.09 hrs

STATEMENT RE : POLICE FIRING ON WORKERS AT AMBERNATH

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Regarding Ambernath, yesterday you had mentioned it. Because they linked it with Payment of Wages Act, you, perhaps, with great reluctance said, 'let the Minister say something about it'. (*Interruption*) I was resisting it primarily because it is the sphere of the State Government. The State Government is there—it is a law and order problem. Even implementation of Payment of Wages Act is left to the State Governments. But, as you desired yesterday, I have got some information. If you permit me, I will give it to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Surely.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said earlier, the query should have been directed to the Home Ministry. But because of Payment of Wages Act, this deplorable incident has taken place through our machinery.

I will place some facts before the House.