

13.12 hrs.

RE. STRIKE BY TEXTILE WORKERS
IN DELHI

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed a few notices under rule 377. I shall call the Members one after the other.

श्री शशि भूषण : (दक्षिण दिल्ली) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, काल अटेंशन का क्या हुआ ?
बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण मामला है। दिल्ली के लिए
30,000 मजदूर स्ट्राइक पर हैं। दिल्ली
क्लाथ मिल्स के। 60 माननीय सदस्यों ने
लिख कर दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed certain Members जिन्होंने 377 में दिया है उन को
अलाउ कर दिया है।

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Sarampore): Under rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I wish to raise the following matter. With your permission, I would like to mention that a calling-attention-notice should have been allowed by you on this subject...

MR. SPEAKER: He should confine his submissions to just one minute.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: This is not such a matter where I can place my point of view before the House within one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, why does he send the notice under rule 377? If he were interested in a calling-attention notice, he should not have tabled one under 377 also.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: That would have come up after the strike was over.

MR. SPEAKER: For Monday, the calling-attention notice is fixed up already.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): We want that the hon. Minister should make a statement on this today.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: From yesterday, the news which is emanating is this. From 11th April, that is, yesterday, 27,000 textile workers of Delhi are on strike. The mills are DCM where 6000 workers are employed, the Swatantra Bharat Mills where 8000 employees are concerned, the Birla Mills where 8000 workers are employed, the Adyudhya Mills where 3500 employees are working and the DCM Silk Mill where 1500 workers are employed. They are all on strike. They have taken to this as a last resort since all their attempts to settle their demands amicably have failed. The strike call was given by the Lal Janda Kapda Mill Mazdoor Union and the INTUC-affiliated Textile Mazdoor Union and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha Union. Hundred per cent of the workers are on strike. They are all peaceful....

MR. SPEAKER: Let there be no speeches now. He should just make his submission within one minute. If hon. Members are going to use rule 377 for speeches, in future, I am not going to allow it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You may allow it today as a special case.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Delhi textile consumption is the costliest. But the workers are getting Rs. 30 less than the Kanpur workers, while the Bombay textile workers are getting Rs. 65 more than the Delhi workers. So, among other demands, their main demand is for a revision of the wages to have 100 per cent neutralisation of the increase in the cost of living....

MR. SPEAKER: I had made a mistake by allowing this.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Kindly give me one minute, Sir.

This is the House of the People. This is Lok Sabha. 27,000 people are on the streets. You are not allowing time for this. But for some petty matters, you allow time.

MR. SPEAKER: Not under 377.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: I request the Minister through you to here and now make a statement as to whether he is immediately intervening in the matter and settling the demands which are all justified and are not very impossible to settle, because the textile magnates are here, Charat Ram, Bharat Ram and Birlas are the managements, all belonging to the big houses. Why are they hesitating? Let them come forward to settle the matter.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This strike is supported by the All India Trade Union Congress. When they had negotiations with the Birlas—Charat Ram—Bharat Ram axis, they refused to concede the demands of the workers. As explained by my hon. friend, Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya, the workers' spokesmen in Delhi stated that they are getting Rs 30 less than the Kanpur workers. I congratulate the 27,000 workers who are fighting against the injustices perpetrated on them by the Birlas, Charat Ram and Bharat Ram. I would request the hon. Minister to make a statement. I want an assurance because many leaders of the ruling party who had attended the meeting said that these mills would be taken over. I want that these mills should be taken over immediately. We do not want Birlas, Charat Ram and Bharat Ram to manage the mills like this. We want nationalisation. (Interruption)

श्री टी० सोहन लाल : (करोल बाग) : हम ने तो कहा था, लेकिन पहले आप ने उस का विरोध किया। अब कैसे कह रहे हैं राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए? जब देखा कि एक एक भादमी ने स्ट्राइक की है तो आप भी सहमत हो गये।

241 L.S.—6

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: We fully support the strike. He is refusing to support the takeover because he is a Birla stooge....

MR. SPEAKER: No, no.

श्री टी० सोहन लाल : हम तो नहीं हैं, लेकिन आप जरूर हैं, और इस को साबित कर देंगे।

AN HON. MEMBER: He must withdraw it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: These mills should be taken over and the workers' demands should be conceded immediately. Tomorrow, the day after and the 15th are holidays. I would urge upon the Minister to make a statement today.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar): I will not take longer time than those friends. It is very unfortunate that even a trade union like the Indian National Trade Union Congress which believes in constitutional means for settlement of disputes of workers has been forced to go on strike.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Strike is a constitutional right.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: He has enough support from Shri Banerjee.

I was saying that it is very unfortunate that a Union which believes in constitutional means of settling disputes has been compelled by these employers, Bharat Ram, Charat Ram and Birlas, to let the workers go on strike. The workers have no other alternative than to resort to strike. The House knows why these workers have gone on strike. It was only because the workers of these textile mills are not being given the same dues and emoluments as workers in class one cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras are given. Why should this discrimination be practised in this capital city of the country? Therefore, it is the immediate duty of the Government of India to intervene in this dispute and settle it to the advantage of the workers.

I do not like to say anything about the other thing. Shri Banerjee was accusing my friend when he was intervening....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I never accused him. I believe in united action.

(इयत्कथान)

हमेशा दलाली की आप ने। आप दलाल नम्बर एक है।

श्री टी० सोहन लाल : आप हैं, यह मैं साबित कर दूंगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप तो ऐसे लड़ रहे जैसे सास और बहू लड़ती हैं। बहुत मुश्किल बात है। अगर इसी तरह से चलना है तो फिर लोक सभा इसी झूठ पर होनी चाहिए कि आपस में लड़ने शगड़ने वाला कौन ज्यादा है।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. Sohan Lal says he is a labour leader. Does he look like a labour leader, Sir? All of them are supporting the black legs, and they are responsible for the strike. We know the history.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rule 377.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं बता दूँ सब को कि 377 कभी डिबेट के लिए नहीं है। यह बिल्कुल गलत परम्परा होगी।

After all, this House proceedings are to be conducted by argument, by exchange of views and peaceful discussions.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I am just completing. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: It is good that Mr. Banerjee has now declared that he is also supporting the strike. All the workers are on strike. I want the Government to intervene in this strike immediately so that the workers' demands could be settled.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon): I support Mr. A. P. Sharma is what he said.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let the Minister make a statement today.

13.21 hrs.

RE. REDUCED SUPPLY OF R. F. O. TO DHUVARAN AND AHMEDABAD POWER PLANTS

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to invite briefly but urgently the attention of the House and in particular the attention of the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to a very serious situation resulting in severe loss in power generation due to substantially reduced supply of the RFO—residual fuel oil—to the Dhuvaran and Ahmedabad power plants caused by the labour trouble at the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's several projects in Gujarat.

The workers of the ONGC projects at various places like Navagam, Kalol, Ahmedabad, Cambay and Aulleshwar and other places have been carrying on a work-to-rule agitation for the last several days and this has resulted in a loss of production and unemployment in the industry.

Mr. Spaker, Sir, the negotiations between the workers on the one hand and the management of the ONGC on the other are going on for the last two years. The demands are so few and are of a minor nature. They want cash payment of their arrears and they have been urging some fixation of grades and a few other minor points need to be settled. The amazing part of the whole thing is that the amount involved is only Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs. The negotiations have been going on for the past two years. And the ONGC workers at last are now conducting a work-to-rule agitation. Moreover, I cannot understand how a work-to-rule agitation can result in all these difficulties. What kind of