

[Shri Raghunatha Reddy]

Rules, 1969, under sub-section (4) of section 72 of the Andhra Pradesh Excise Act, 1968 read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 18th January, 1973 issued by the President in relation to the State of Andhra Pradesh. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4808/73].

MR. SPEAKER: I call Shri D. K. Borooah to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: About the communal riots in Hazaribagh, we are all very sorry. This is a State matter. I shall look into it and try to find a way-out. I am not permitting you, Mr. Bosu. How can you bring a State matter to Parliament?

I have also been thinking on the same line. It is very unfortunate. This House should know about it. I am telling you that we shall find a way as to how to get the information on this.

12.55 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. REDUCED SUPPLY OF RESIDUAL FUEL OIL TO DHUVARAN AND AHMEDABAD POWER PLANTS**

MR. SPEAKER: Statement by Shri D. K. Borooah. If it is a long statement he may lay it on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROAH): Yes, Sir. I beg to lay the Statement on the Table.

**STATEMENT**

The last wage agreement between the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and its labour unions expired in January, 1971. Soon thereafter the Unions placed demands for fresh negotiations for revision of pay scales, pay etc. Their main demand was that the pay scales and pay should be brought up so as to be at par with

those of the employees of the Indian Oil Corporation.

However, before the negotiations for a new agreement could be started, there was a heavy inflow of refugees from Bangla Desh followed by hostilities with Pakistan because of which negotiations could not be held. The negotiations finally commenced in August, 1972. A large number of meetings were held between the ONGC management and the Unions from time to time. However, no agreement could be reached and strike notices were issued by the Unions. The matter was therefore taken up in conciliation by the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner, Government of India; the proceedings are still pending.

Nevertheless, negotiations between the ONGC management and the Unions were continued from time to time; but no understanding could be reached. Consequently the employees in Gujarat resumed their agitation in the form of work-to-rule commencing from the last week of March, 1973.

The last round of negotiations was held at Dehra Dun on 10th April 1973 and 11th April 1973. No mutually satisfactory understanding between the management and the Unions has, however, been reached.

As a result of this agitation, the ONGC's operations in Gujarat have been adversely affected in recent days. Although production of crude oil from the Ankleswar field is being somehow maintained at normal levels, there has been reduction in production from the North Gujarat oil-field.

As a result of reduced production of crude oil from North Gujarat oil-fields during the first 15 days of April, the Gujarat Refinery has not been able to make supplies of Residual

Fuel Oil to Dhuvaran and Ahmedabad Power Plants to the full extent. The shortfall in April 1973 in the case of Dhuvaran power plant as compared to supplies of both RFO and fuel oil made in January-March 1973 is about 4 per cent and in the case of Ahmedabad power plant about 18 per cent. Detailed month-wise statistics are shown in the enclosed table. In addition, there has been depletion of stocks of crude oil and RFO. To ensure the regular supply of RFO it is necessary that normalcy should be restored as quickly as possible.

I hope that the negotiations between the management of ONGC and the Union will be resumed with the object of evolving a satisfactory solution. Meanwhile, it is of the utmost importance that pending settlement of the matter, the employees of ONGC exercise restraint and perform their duties normally so that work in this vital section of oil production is not allowed to be hampered thereby harming the nation's interest. With this objective in view, I have requested the Minister of Labour, Government of Gujarat to use his good offices in the matter.

*Enclosure*

Average of Crude Oil supplies (Tonnes/day) to Gujarat Refinery

	January 1973	February 1973	March 1973	April (1st to 15th) 1973
From South Gujarat Oil-fields	8278	8356	8361	8166
From North Gujarat oil-fields	1598	1745	1770	808 (no supplies on 14-4-73 and 15-4-73).

Supplies of RFO & FO to Power Stations

(Figures in tonnes)

	Jan 73		Feb 73		March 73		April 73 (1st to 15th)	
	RFO	FO	RFO	FO	RFO	FO	RFO	FO
To Dhuvaran Power Plant	48353	5146	46615	9164	55424	9184	20840	7155
To Ahmedabad Power Plant	18690	..	14193	..	19350	..	7232	..