

सभापति महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये । हमने आपको परमीशन नहीं दी है ।

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : जो कुछ कहा गया यह यहाँ का विषय नहीं है, उसको रेकार्ड पर नहीं जाना चाहिये ।

सभापति महोदय : जी नहीं, वह जायगा क्योंकि हमने माननीय रामावतार शास्त्री को अलाऊ किया था, इसलिये वह रेकार्ड पर चला गया ।

14.10 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED INSULT OF CERTAIN
MPS BY THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS—
Contd.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : Sir, I was not here and in my absence certain hon. Members alleged that I insulted them and refused to see them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : That is not the main thing.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna) : That is also one thing.

सभापति महोदय : शास्त्री जी, यह बात ठीक नहीं है। आप पहले इनकी बात सुन लीजिए और बाद में अगर कोई बात पुख्ती हो तो पूछ लीजिए ।

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I can only submit in all humility the House that none of those things are true. Only 3 Members wanted to see me, Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Bhogendra Jha sabeb, and Shri Sarjoo Pandey. They themselves know. They sat with me. I gave them tea, coffee and coca-cola ..(ब्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : आप जरा सुनिये । आप एक डिस्सिपलिड पार्टी के प्रादमी हैं । आप के लीडर बैठे हुए हैं । श्री भोवेंद्र भूषा का वे नाम ले रहे हैं । अगर उनको कुछ स्किड्ड करना होगा तो स्वयं वे कर लेंगे । आप बेहुरबानी करके बैठिये और थोड़ा अपने ऊपर रेस्ट्रेन्ट रक्खिये ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : ये 13 और 14 दोनों को मिला रहे हैं । 13 की अलग बात है और 14 की अलग बात है ।...ब्यवधान...

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : We discussed for 3 hours. They asked me to address the workmen. I spoke in English. Shri Bhogendra Jha translated in Hindi. There was no question of insult to anybody.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : ये क्या बातें करते हैं...००...

सभापति महोदय : शास्त्री जी जरा आप सुनिये । जो कुछ वे कह रहे हैं वह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जायगा । इस तरह का आप बिहैवियर मत कीजिए ।

यह कोई तरीका नहीं है । आप महेरबानी करके बैठ जाइये । जब आप बोल रहे थे तो...

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उम्होंने भी तो कहा है ।...ब्यवधान...

सभापति महोदय : आप एजीटेटेड मत हाइये और महेरबानी करके बैठ जाइए ।

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : My hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta, for whom I have great respect, it seems, said that I insulted a lady worker or some such thing also.....

AN HON. MEMBER : Only Members of Parliament.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : The only time was that the hon. Members of the Communist party who are very chivalrous, did not bring any lady with them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Allpore) : You are equally chivalrous. You have not broken the service of any lady worker ; you have imposed this on the services of 5,000 men.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We do not bring lady workers everywhere.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : The question raised by my friend Mr. Indrajit Gupta ji is an old question. Because of

Barauni and Garhara strike the country was put to a loss of Rs. 4 crores. They went on illegal strike. Automatically some punishments are attracted to people who participated in that strike. Therefore break in service was not something imposed, but according to the rule, this is attracted by those who went on strike.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What was the assurance given before the strike was withdrawn ?

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : I only appeal to my friend Shastri ji, who bears the name of Ram, to tell me whether any assurance I have given in this House on that subject. In the statement I have given then there was no assurance of any kind.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : (Serampore) But his colleague, Shri Khadilkar has.

SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA : On the other hand, I told them personally this. After all, they are our countrymen. I am not a person who will make any distinction between a party and a party; my age as at least impels me not to go technically on party lines. I have told them certain things and if those things are done, the question of break in service would be reconsidered. I have discussed it with them. They know it. I do not want to go into details.

On the question of recognition, I told them it is before a court of law. Shri Banerjee was convinced. When I explained that if it is a question of law, it has to be referred to the law Ministry, where it can be examined and looked into, he agreed.

Regarding withdrawal of cases, there are about 43 criminal cases against some workers who indulged in violence and trespassed into the houses of officers. These are the allegations. I am not saying anything further about it. I cannot withdraw these cases. If these are to be withdrawn, it must be on the basis of some understanding arrived at between management and labour, and then we can go with a common request before the State Government for the purpose. Instead of producing a congenial atmosphere of goodwill and understanding,

if members—some of them—make wild allegations against a man who is innocent, all that I beg of them, is let not any one of us in our anxiety spoil the good atmosphere that is being created. In spite of what Shri Bhogendra Jha has said, I have trust and confidence in him. He invited me to address the workers. I explained to the workers the role of Parliament and how I will not be able to sustain losses on the railways because I have to go before Parliament for increase of fares and freight which Parliament generally does not allow. So I begged of the workers not to go on these illegal strikes. They quietly listened to me and went away at the end of the meeting. I am sure the hon. members concerned will tell this House that we parted with grace and goodwill. I do not know why they raised this question at all. I assure the House I am one of those people who practise democracy not for the sake of ministership; I am one of those who have paid heavily by way of imprisonment and sacrifice to bring about a democratic order into existence in this country. I will be the last person to insult Parliament or any of its members thereof. As hon. members know, so far as my Ministry is concerned, MPs receive more respect at my Ministry's hands than at any time in the history of the Railways. Therefore, it is far from my intention to do that. Therefore, the communist party members have to talk to me, negotiate with me. I am not the final authority. According to law, the Railway Board is an autonomous organisation. I have to take their advice and counsel and then decide. Therefore, what good atmosphere they created yesterday be continued. It will in no way help if they make allegations either directly here or through any of their leaders elsewhere against me who has treated them most kindly and courteously.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : After the hon. Minister's statement and the clear elucidation of the facts, in all fairness let us create a good atmosphere in the House. In the morning, his resignation was demanded. I do not want to accentuate the problem. I would only say that whatever allegations are made should be born out by facts. From what has been stated now, it is clear that what was said in the morning was not borne out by facts (*Interruptions*).

सभापति महोदय : इसके ऊपर हम डिबेट एलाऊ नहीं कर रहे हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : उधर के लोग भी तो बोल रहे हैं ।

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : They should apologise.

सभापति महोदय : एक आदमी को हम एलाऊ करते हैं । वह आपका लीडर हो या कोई दूसरा आदमी, वह अगर कोई क्लेरीफिकेशन सीक करना चाहे, तो कर ले ।

SHRI VASANT SATHE (...kola) : Those who made false allegations should at least express regret.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Yes.

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : We say that it is correct.

श्री सरजू पांडे (गाजीपुर) : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सही है कि श्री हनुमन्तिया ने 13 मई की शाम को वर्कर्स के सामने जाकर ऐंज़ेस किया और श्री भोगेन्द्र झा वहां मौजूद थे । उनको उन्होंने खुद बुलाया था, और फिर वर्कर्स के सामने जाकर कहा कि हम सबके साथ न्याय करेगे । वहां पर कोई गड़बड़ नहीं हुई । इसलिये डिमान्डेशन पोस्टपोन किया गया । 14 तारीख को मैं, श्री बनर्जी और श्री भोगेन्द्र झा उनके यहां गये । उन्होंने कहा कि जब तक चोरी और पिल्फरेज बन्द नहीं होगी तब तक ब्रेक इन सर्विस को कन्डोन नहीं करेगे । विस इज वि बर्दिग्न आफ दी पिनिस्टर । हम लोगो ने कहा कि हम लोग कोशिश करेगे, ऐंटमास्किंगर क्रिएट करेगे । लेकिन आपके आफिमर्स के खिलाफ ऐलिंगेशन हैं । आप उसकी एन्ववायरी कराइये । अगर कोई पेटी रेल बरकर उसको गिरफ्तार करता है या उसके खिलाफ ऐलिंगेशन लाता है तो वर्कर को सर्वेड किया जाता है । हम लोगों ने केस दिया हुआ है । उसके बाद उन्होंने कहा कि पहले आप चोरी और पिल्फरेज बन्द कीजिये, तब मैं सोचूंगा । उसके बाद हम

लोगों ने कहा कि यह सम्भव नहीं है । हमारी यूनियन को आप रिकग्नाइज नहीं करते और उस यूनियन को रिकग्नाइज किया हुआ है जिस का रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं है ।

सभापति महोदय : आप छोड़िये उस बात को ।

श्री सरजू पांडे : जिस यूनियन का कानपुर में रजिस्ट्रेशन है और पटना में फाल्स रजिस्ट्रेशन है उसको आप ने रिकग्नाइज किया हुआ है । उसके बाद एक आदमी ने जरूर कहा कि आप के रेलवे अधिकारी जब तक नहीं मानेंगे तब तक चोरी बन्द नहीं होगी । उसके बाद उन्होंने कहा : शट आप, गो ब्राउट फ्राम हिअर । श्री भोगेन्द्र झा ने कहा कि आपने हम को बुलाया है । उन्होंने कहा कि मैंने नहीं बुलाया है, गो ब्राउट फ्राम हिअर । इसके बाबजूद वह बैठे रहे और श्री बनर्जी ने विथ कोल्डेड हैंड्स, हाथ जोड़कर उनसे कहा कि आप चार आदमियों की सर्विसेज को कंडोन कर दीजिये । उन्होंने हंसते हुए कहा कि हां, हां तुम बड़े चालाक ट्रेड यूनियन वाले हो (व्यवधान) आज चार के लिये कहते हो, कल और चार के लिये कहोगे, और इस तरह मे अपनी बात पूरी कराना चाहते हो । (व्यवधान) ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I said only for one.

श्री सरजू पांडे : ...ऐसा आदमी मैंने नहीं देखा । इस मिनिस्टर को हिम्मत के साथ कहना चाहिये कि उन्होंने कहा या नहीं गो ब्राउट । फाल्स यूनियन को रिकग्नाइज किये हुए हैं और उधर यूनियन के रिकग्निशन और सर्विसिज को कंडोन करने के मामलों को लेकर भूल हड़ताल चल रही है मिनिस्टर के बंगले पर ।

सभापति महोदय : अब आपकी बात खत्म हो गई, आप समाप्त कीजिये ।

श्री सरजू पांडे : इस वकत हम आपको पंच

मानते हैं या कोई मेम्बर आफ पार्लियामेंट हमारे केस को देखे और उसके बाव निर्णय करे। आप या वह मेम्बर जो भी फँसला करेगे हम मान लेंगे।

सभापति महोदय : ठीक है, हो गई आप की बात।

श्री सरजू पाण्डे : लेकिन यहाँ सारी झूठी बातें मिनिस्टर ने कहीं हैं। यह कहते हैं कि किसी के माथ दुर्व्यवहार नहीं किया है। आप कांग्रेस मेम्बरों के दिल से पूछिये। उनके दिल में चोट है उसके व्यवहार से। एक-एक आदमी दुखी है उनके व्यवहार से। वह कहते हैं कि मैं जेल गया हू। वह कितने दिन के लिये जेल गये उतने दिन मे रेमिशन पा चुका हूँ 1942 और 1941 के प्रोमेट मे। मैं उनसे कोई कम देश-भक्त नहीं हू जो वह देशभक्ति की बहादुरी दिखलाते है।

सभापति महोदय : अब छोड़िये इन बात को।

श्री सरजू पाण्डे : मैं आपको पत्र बनाता हूँ, आप फँसला कीजिये। उन्होंने जो व्यवहार किया है उसके बारे मे आप उनसे पूछिये। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : आप हमारी बात को सुनिये।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा (जयनगर) : सभी बातें सामने आ जाये, इसके लिये आप हमको मौका दीजिये।

सभापति महोदय : मैं आपको धलाऊ नहीं करता हूँ, श्री भोगेन्द्र झा।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : आप हमको मौका क्यों नहीं देंगे ?

सभापति महोदय : मैंने आपसे पूछा कि आप कहना चाहते हैं या वह कहना चाहते हैं। आपकी तरफ से श्री सरजू पाण्डे बोले चुके, अब

मैं और किसी को मौका नहीं दे सकता। यह कोई कोर्ट नहीं है।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : सब बातें भवन के सामने आ जायें, इसलिये हमें मौका देना चाहिये।

सभापति महोदय : सब बातें आ गई हैं। मैंने आपसे पूछ लिया था।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : आप मुझे सुनिये। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मिनिस्टर हमको ब्लफ दे रहे हैं। ही इब् ए ब्लफर।

सभापति महोदय : आप इस तरह की भाषा यहाँ न इस्तेमाल कीजिये। हमने आपको आदमी को मौका दे दिया है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : हम सबको आप को मौका देना चाहिये।

सभापति महोदय : नहीं, नहीं, नहीं। आप ऐसी भाषा यहाँ मत इस्तेमाल कीजिये। यह आपको शोभा नहीं देता। आप किस पार्टी के मेम्बर है ?

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैं ठीक कहता हूँ।

सभापति महोदय : आप एक रिस्पॉसिबल पार्टी के मेम्बर हैं। क्या आप ऐसी भाषा इस्तेमाल करेगे इस पार्लियामेंट में ? आपकी बात आपके साथी मेम्बर ने यहाँ पर रक्खी। क्या आप यहाँ पर इस बारे में आध चंटे का डिबेट इस समय करना चाहते हैं। चूँकि एक सदस्य ने आपकी बात कह दी, इसलिये वह बात खत्म ही गई। (व्यवधान)

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : अभी सारा तथ्य सामने नहीं आया है।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Tempers have been running rather high and so, Mr. Chairman, I hope you will not take a strict view of certain words which have been hurled across the floor of the House.

Regarding yesterday's incident at the Railway Minister's house, I think we can drop the matter. There are allegations and counter-allegations. As to whether anybody was guilty of impoliteness, it cannot be settled here. Nobody is sitting in judgement here to give a verdict.

But if this matter is to be closed and not brought up again in this House after a few days, through you I would request the hon. Railway Minister to look into the real thing which is at the root of this matter — break of service of 5,000 employees. Will he at least assure us that he will look into it sympathetically and not just show us the book of rules? It is not going to help us in this matter if he shows us the book of rules on the advice of the Railway Board, as he said himself. He also said that he was not a man to stick to technical rules. If he takes up the rules and hurls them at us every time on the advice of the Railway Board, I am apprehensive that this matter may come up again. There are 5,000 workers. 500 of them are sitting on the footpath and are on hunger strike. We want that matter to be settled. It is not as if such break in service has never been condoned. I am a president of a union and I myself got the break in service of about 10,000 workers condoned on the South-eastern Railway who had been on an equally so-called illegal strike. It was done and heavens have not fallen, I would request him to consider the matter sympathetically. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Shall I go away from Lok Sabha? He called me a liar. If he proves it, I shall resign from the Lok Sabha. I am challenging him. (*Interruptions*).

सभापति महोदय : आपकी की पार्टी के लीडर ने सब कुछ कह दिया जो स्टेटमेंट उन्होंने दिया उस से मैं एग्री करता हूँ। यह मैटर सदन के सामने जजमेंट के लिये नहीं आ सकता। आप ने मलत कहः या मिनिस्टर ने गलत कहा, इस पर जजमेंट के लिये हम नहीं बैठे हैं, न बैठ सकते हैं। (व्यवधान)

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : सारे तथ्य तो सदन के सामने जाने चाहिये। उनको सुन कर हमारी राय बननी चाहिये।

सभापति महोदय : आप जरा कृपा कीजिये अगर इस तरह से भावभी रजिस्टर्ड हो जाए तो कैसे काम चलेगा ?

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : आप सब फीक्ट्स तो सामने जाने दें जिस में राय कायम हो सके।

सभापति महोदय : सब कुछ ठीक है। यह लेबर का क्वेश्चन है, वह नेगोशिएशन से बाहर तय हो सकता है।

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: He tried to malign the Prime Minister. He said: I did not give a commitment. Mr. Khadiikar's commitment is not his commitment. The Railway Board's signed letter is here. He is responsible for that .. (*Interruptions*).

सभापति महोदय : अब आप बंठ जाइये। आप हम को फोर्स मत कीजिये। मैं आप को झलाऊ नहीं करता।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : अगर आप झलाऊ नहीं करते तो मैं नहीं बँटूंगा।

सभापति महोदय : अगर आप नहीं बँटेंगे तो हम को ऐक्शन लेना होगा।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : आप तीजिये ऐक्शन, मैं नहीं बँटूंगा, नहीं तो आप हम को मीका दीजिये। (व्यवधान)

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: What I told you is: the facts are otherwise. The Minister was quite conciliatory. I think we should try to be conciliatory rather than try to create conflicts and confrontations.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Two matters are being mixed up and confused with each other. One is the allegation and the counter allegation about what transpired at his house yesterday. Whether anybody was polite or rude, that is one matter on which the Members are not satisfied with the version given by the Minister. That is a different matter. The other matter is the matter of the initial dispute which has led to this. There the members are insisting—they have a letter in their possession given by the Railway Board at the time the strike was withdrawn in which a certain assurance was given,

The Labour Minister also gave an assurance. The Prime Minister's intervention was requested at that time. I also personally met her, so that the strike could be called off. On that basis only the strike was called off, because a certain assurance was given. Now the Labour Minister says, I am helpless. The Prime Minister is unapproachable and the Railway Board's letter has no value. He says, "I must go by the advice of the Railway Board". We are in a difficult position. What are we supposed to do ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would beg of my friend to consider this. It is a labour matter. The labour dispute is going on and it is pending. You have made certain points and they have been listened to. Do you expect the Minister to give a reply offhand right here? I think it will be too much. We are trying to settle a labour matter here concerning the recognition of a union, condonation of break in service or such matters. He has listened to it and the matter is being dealt with at the proper level. Let it be dealt with there. Can the Minister say, "Yes" or "No" here? He cannot. This is not the issue before the House. We are discussing the Finance Bill. Everything that has been said here has gone on record. Now no commitment can be made. There are two or three issues : Condonation of break in service, recognition of union and withdrawal of cases. There are matters which can only be decided at the proper level in the proper way. How can the Minister make any commitment ? (*Interruptions*). He has refuted that he did not allow anyone to meet him. (*Interruptions*). He should hear the allegation. He will bear me out... (*Interruptions*).

सनापति महोदय : यह लेबर का मामला है। उनको पनिश्मेंट हुआ है या वे डिस्मिस हुए हैं... (इंटरप्शन) अगर आप इस तरह से बोलते चले गए तो मैं रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाने दूंगा। जितना बोलना हो आप बोलते रहे लेकिन कुछ रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा। मेरी बात आप सुन लें।

वो झूठ है। एक तो लेबर का दाय है और दूसरा यह है कि जो जोष मिलने गए उनके साथ कैसा व्यवहार हुआ। जहाँ तक व्यवहार

का प्रश्न है उस दाय पर हम यहाँ जजमेंट में नहीं बैठ सकते हैं। आप नोगो ने चार्ज लगाना है और उसका जवाब मिनिस्टर ने आप को दे दिया है...

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : उन्होंने मुना नहीं चार्ज क्या है। मलत सुन लिया है कि लेडी का हाम पकड़ लिया और किसी से मिलना स्वीकार नहीं किया.....

He has refuted that he did not allow anyone to meet him. (*Interruptions*) He should hear the allegation He will bear me out .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would beg of Mr. Bhogendra Jha and my other friends there : let us take this matter out of this House and we shall discuss it with an open mind.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : In this House I am proved a liar .. (*Interruptions*). I will not go to negotiate with him. That is not the matter. The question is, the house should hear what we have alleged. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : May I appeal to the leader of the CPI, Mr. Indrajit Gupta? The basic question is about the welfare of labour. We might have behaved or misbehaved with each other. We can certainly quarrel with each other; we can also condone each other. We can certainly play with our tempers sometimes. But since this concerns the welfare of the labour, let us discuss it dispassionately in a calm atmosphere outside. The Finance Bill is under discussion and not this. So, I would beg of hon. Members to consider this point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I can only say that although it is a labour matter, as far as the handling of it by the Labour Minister and the Railway Minister is concerned, we have absolutely no confidence left. I am prepared to advise my colleagues to drop the matter only on one condition, and that is this, that you give an assurance that when this matter will be taken up outside the House, it will be by no person other than the Prime Minister, at whose original intervention the strike was withdrawn. If she is prepared to handle it, we are prepared to

[SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA]

drop the matter. We have no confidence in the Labour Minister or the Railway Minister.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : It is too much for me to pass any judgment on my colleagues, the Labour Minister and the Railway Minister. That is not fair or proper, we shall have to co-operate with each other. All that I can say is that I shall convey to the Prime Minister what he has said. I cannot really say anything more than that. After all, we have to deal with each other. You may be angry with me sometimes. But we shall have to sit down and work. I cannot condemn my colleagues the Labour Minister and the Railway Minister merely to please him. All I can say is that we are seized of the matter which is a labour dispute at least. I think that should suffice.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As the leader of the party I am taking personal responsibility of seeing to it now that the matter is dropped. But I am doing it on my understanding that the matter will be dealt with and disposed of by the Prime Minister. If that is not done, then we may raise it again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What Shri Indrajit Gupta has said is on record. The Minister will consider it and now he will talk to him and decide it.

आपके लिडर ने कह दिया है इस बात को कि घाप लोग इसको ड्राप कर दें। यह खरम हो गया है।

श्री दीनेन भट्टाचार्य।

श्री इन्द्रजीत गुप्त : फाइनेंस बिल पर हम लोग भाषण देंगे। लेकिन फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने अपने भाषण में क्या कहा इसको तो हम सुन ही नहीं सके। कुछ तो पता चलना चाहिये कि इन्होंने क्या कहा ?

14.39 hrs

FINANCE BILL 1972—Contd

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I could not hear what the hon. Finance Minister spoke here because of the very important issue raised here. If only this attitude had been taken by the Minister of Parliamentary

Affairs at the outset I think we could have saved much time of the House.

The Finance Bill, 1972, is yet another attempt to put heavy tax burdens on the people for raising resources for the perpetuation of the capitalist path of development which the ruling party has been treading for the last 25 years. Despite the tall talk of socialism and *garibi hatao*, the Government led by Shrimati Indira Gandhi has been following a policy of helping big monopolists and landlords.

The Finance Bill is a magnificent attempt at self-delusion. The taxation policies embodied in the Bill are a mandate for stagnation and not a mandate for economic growth with social justice and self-reliance

Sir, I may say that it is a robbery through high taxation and deficit financing. The Economic Times Research Bureau has calculated that "Contrary to the general impression, the changes in the indirect levies proposed in the Budget for 1972-73 are likely to push up the wholesale commodity prices anything between five to six per cent." It appeared in the Economic Times, Bombay of March 29, 1972.

Sir, out of about Rs 183.25 crores of new taxation envisaged in the Budget only about Rs. 16 or Rs. 20 crores may fall on rich strata, the rest of the burden actually will fall on the common people and this burden of indirect taxes will seriously affect and aggravate the inflationary pressures. Again I quote the figures given by the Economic Times in their review of March 29, 1972. How this is expected to affect certain commodities and how it has increased on the basis of percentage of 1971-72 ? In respect of fuel, power, light and lubricants, it has gone up by 7.9%, in respect of liquor and tobacco by 7.5%, machinery and transport by 11.1%, manufacturers by 12.9% and in respect of all commodities it has gone up 6.3%.

Sir, while the Ruling Congress sheds crocodile tears for the poor people, they actually go on increasing the tax burdens on the people through higher dose of indirect taxes which will fall on the masses of poor people. For instance, the total indirect taxes collected by the Central Government in 1963-64 was Rs. 1,079 crores, it increased to