

families of the deceased workers, a sum of Rs. 2000 from the DGOF's Benevolent Fund and Rs. 100 for the funeral rites of the deceased from Factory Welfare Fund have been or are being disbursed. Further, a sum of Rs 1150 will be given to each bereaved family by the Ammunition Factory Employees' Credit Society, Kirkee. The families of the deceased will be entitled to benefits amounting approximately Rs. 8000 to Rs 9000 under the Workmen's Compensation Act, in addition to benefits admissible under the Pension Rules. One individual from each family has been offered suitable appointment in DGOF's Organisation. In so far as the injured are concerned, apart from free medical treatment, these persons will be entitled, during the period of their treatment, to full pay and allowances, in addition to compensation which they may get under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased workers and in wishing speedy recovery to the injured persons.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): You allow a call attention notice. This is the fifth accident in Kirkee, and second in the Ammunition factory. It is not the fault of the Minister. A Committee has been appointed but since the departmental committees are not of great help, let there be a high-power committee. They are paying with the human lives. I myself served in the factory. I know what is that factory. It is the oldest factory. 13 people have been killed. I would request you to allow either a discussion or a call attention to be answered.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very serious accident and I very much feel concerned about it. I think we should find some time to discuss it.

12.36 hrs

MOTION RE. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):
Sir, I beg to move:

"(1) (a) That a Committee of both the Houses, to be called the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes be constituted consisting of thirty members, twenty from Lok Sabha and ten from Rajya Sabha, to be elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote; and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot;

(b) That a Minister shall not be eligible for election as a Member of the Committee and that if a member after his election to the Committee is appointed a Minister, he shall cease to be a Member thereof from the date of such appointment;

(2) That the functions of the Committee shall be:

(i) to consider the reports submitted by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Article 338(2) of the Constitution and to report to both the Houses as to the measures that should be taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union Territories;

(ii) to report to both the Houses on the Action taken by the Union Government and the

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Administrations of the Union territories on the measures proposed by the Committee;

- (iii) to examine the measures taken by the Union Government to secure due representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services and posts under its control (including appointments in the Public Sector Undertakings, Statutory and Semi-Government Bodies and in the Union Territories) having regard to the provisions of article 335;
- (iv) to report to both the Houses on the working of the welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territories; and
- (v) to examine such other matters as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker;
- (3) That the members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of the first meeting of the Committee;
- (4) That in order to constitute a sitting of the Committee, the quorum shall be ten;
- (5) That in all other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and
- (6) That this House do recommend to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Committee and communicate to this House the names of members elected from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to the Committee as mentioned above."

MR. SPEAKER: Before I put the question, I want to make one observation. We come to the House every time for the appointment of this Committee. This Committee, the other day when I addressed them, and even earlier, have asked that instead of having to come to the House every time, it should be incorporated in the Rules and that, like other Committees, viz., the Public Undertakings Committee etc., they could also, as a matter of routine or under the Rules, be elected, along with the other Committees.

So I am going to put this matter to the Rules Committee, I hope that this is the last time that we have to come to the House for the appointment of this Committee, and I very much hope that the Rules Committee will agree to that. But I leave it to them.

Now, the question is:

- "(1) (a) That a Committee of both the Houses, to be called the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' be constituted consisting of thirty members, twenty from Lok Sabha and ten from Rajya Sabha, to be elected in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote: and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot;
- (b) That a Minister shall not be eligible for election as a Member of the Committee and that if a member after his election to the Committee is appointed a Minister, he shall cease to be a Member thereof from the date of such appointment;
- (2) That the functions of the Committee shall be;
- (i) to consider the reports submitted by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under arti-

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- cle 338(2) of the Constitution and to report to both the Houses as to the measures that should be taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union Territories;
- (ii) to report to both the Houses on the Action taken by the Union Government and the Administrations of the Union territories on the measures proposed by the Committee;
- (iii) to examine the measures taken by the Union Government to secure due representation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in services and posts under its control (including appointments in the Public Sector Undertakings, Statutory and Semi-Government Bodies and in the Union Territories) having regard to the provisions of article 335;
- (iv) to report to both the Houses on the working of the welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Union territories; and
- (v) to examine such other matters as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker;
- (3) That the members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of the first meeting of the Committee;
- (4) That in order to constitute a sitting of the Committee the quorum shall be ten;
- (5) That in all other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

- (6) That this House do recommend to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Committee and communicate to this House the names of members elected from amongst the members of the Rajya Sabha to the Committee as mentioned above."

The motion was adopted.

12.39 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377.

Proposed increase in Prices of Newspapers

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (BEGUSARAI): With your permission, I want to draw the attention of the House as well as of the Government to the fact that the newspaper organisations have joined together and decided to raise their prices and also the advertisement rates as a result of the 30 per cent cut in the supply of newsprint effected by the Government.

This decision by the organization of the newspapers has adversely affected the newspaper-reading public as well as the small newspapers. It is feared that all the amount ear-marked for advertisement will be used up and appropriated by the big newspapers.

Then, the most important thing is the adverse repercussion of the Government's Order of 30 per cent cut on the report of the Parliamentary proceedings. There has been a drastic attention of the report of Parliamentary proceedings. Sometimes, these have been leading to a complete black-out of the contributions made by the private Members. The worst casualty, Mr. Speaker, is the Opposition side because the Government side is fully represented through a comprehensive coverage of their speeches. The Opposition side of the case is completely blacked out

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): If the Opposition talks sense, it would be reported.