

Even after the assurances in 1972 when the Southern Railwaymen strike was withdrawn on the assurance of the then Minister, Mr. T. A. Pai in September, I see on October 24, 1972, the Local Divisional Superintendent has issued charge-sheets and notices—"Illegal strike of loco running staff in September 1972." In this he said that those who have taken part in the 'illegal strike', their break of service is recorded and they will have to undergo all these punishments:

- 1 Forfeiture of all leave earned upto the date of the strike
- 2 Forfeiture of all passes standing to employee's credit on the date of the strike
- 3 Postponement of the date of increment
- 4 Forfeiture of services rendered prior to the date of the illegal strike for the purpose of grant of SC to PF or pension
- 5 For all purposes of benefits, concessions and privileges which are determined on the basis of length of service, it should be reckoned only from the date of resumption to duty after the strike etc

If this is not punishment and if this is not provocation and if this is not oppression, what else is it? There are 3000 cases in the Southern Railway alone. So, the situation is explosive. That is why you must be patient and considerate and if you want to actually bring about a satisfactory settlement, you must have to give a guarantee and an assurance that all these victimisations will be immediately stopped and you will have direct talks with the leaders of the loco running staff association and their basic demands, namely, 8 hours work and that they should be categorised, etc.—there are other demands also and all these demands I am not going into because they are

with you, should be considered sympathetically and a solution must be arrived at after negotiations with them.

I hope with a new attitude the Minister will make a statement so that they can feel assured to come and talk. On that understanding the struggle will be withdrawn.

18.25 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHURAMAIAH) I want to make one small statement about tomorrow's business

As the House is aware, the Resolution seeking approval of the Proclamation in respect of UP should be approved by the House before the 13th of August. Hence, it is proposed to give preference to it in tomorrow's order paper by providing it immediately after the passage of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill. This is made necessary by the changes which were made in the order of business today.

18 26 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE CURRENT STRIKE SITUATION IN RAILWAYS—Contd.

MR CHAIRMAN All right. Now, I have to take the sense of the House about the present debate. It is already 6-25 pm and we have got ten more speakers to participate. May I suggest that we may call the Minister for reply at 7-30? May I request the Members to cooperate? We have got 10 Members to speak and 66 minutes to go. How much each one should get is something for you to decide.

AN HON MEMBER: Six minutes each.