

[Shri Manubhai Shah]

reasons why the documents referred to at (1) to (3) above could not be laid within the period prescribed under the said section

[Placed in Library See No S-118/57]

(5) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Cotton and Hair Belting Industry

(6) Government Resolution No 6(1)/TP/57, dated the 8th June, 1957

(7) Statement under proviso to Section 16(2) of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, explaining the reasons why the documents referred to at (5) and (6) above could not be laid within the period prescribed under the said section

[Placed in Library See No S-119/57]

(8) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Wood Saw Industry

(9) Government Resolution No 35(1)/TP/57, dated the 29th June, 1957

[Placed in Library See No S-120/57]

Shri Sonavane (Sholapur Reserved—Sch. Castes) Under item 6, two notifications are laid on the Table making certain amendments to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Rules. May I know what is the purpose and what is the necessity for changing the rules? Can we have some explanation in this matter?

Mr. Speaker. The hon Member will kindly look into those amendments and table questions. I will allow him an opportunity to put these questions.

PETITIONS re FINANCE (NO 2)
BILL AND CENTRAL EXCISES AND
SALT ACT

Secretary: Sir, under Rule 167 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I have to report that two petitions as per statement laid on the Table have been received on the following subject—

(i) The Finance (No 2) Bill, 1957

(ii) The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944

STATEMENT

Petition No.	Brief Subject	Number of Signatories	District or town	State
5	In respect of the Finance No 2) Bill 1957	1	Kamganj Farukhabad	Uttar Pradesh
6	In respect of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.	1	do	—d

STATEMENT RE PROPOSED
STRIKE BY P & T EMPLOYEES

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Sir, in August last, the P. & T employees submitted to Government a large number of demands in the shape of a Charter covering numerous aspects of the terms and conditions of P & T employees. Since then, these demands have been the subject of discussion between the representatives of the Federation and Government, and Shri Raj Bahadurji

has had personal discussions with the Federation's officials on more than one occasion. I also had a meeting with them on the 11th June, 1957, and later at the Federation's request, addressed their Conference on the 6th July, 1957 with specific reference to their demands.

All this time, Government has dealt with this problem in a spirit of understanding and every effort has been made to meet the reasonable and legitimate demands within the limits of available resources. I might perhaps mention here that the

demands submitted by the Federation in the Charter fell broadly into the following two categories.—

(a) those of a general nature affecting all Central Government employees, and

(b) those which concerned the employees of P & T Department only

In the first category were such demands as the appointment of a Second Pay Commission, an immediate increase in the rate of dearness allowance and the merger of the entire dearness allowance with pay I had explained to the representatives of the Federation that these demands which have serious financial implications cannot be considered in relation to P & T employees alone. The question is in its larger context under the consideration of Government.

There were two other major demands relating to (a) removal of discrimination amongst the various cadres as between members of Class III and IV and (b) liberalisation of pension rules. As regards the former the distinction between Class III and Class IV related to matters concerning leave rules, leave reserve and medical attendance. Necessary orders have been issued to remove any such distinction on the points regarding leave rules and medical attendance benefits. Orders have also issued generally liberalising the pension rules and removing the existing distinction between Class III and Class IV employees in that respect.

Mr. Speaker: The statement seems to run to seven foolscap pages.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: But two pages are only half each and they can be taken as one page.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow, no questions are allowed so far as the statement is concerned, and hon. Members would also like to read the statement and understand it. If here and there some essentials are read out, it is enough, or, if it is laid on the Table, I will get it circulated. If still there

are any questions which hon. Members want to put, that opportunity to put questions is already there.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I cannot provide more copies now.

Mr. Speaker: I will get it circulated. Hon. Members might study it and if anything more has to be asked, they might send the questions to me. The hon. Minister will kindly lay it on the Table.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I lay it on the Table.

Portion of the Statement laid on the Table

Another set of demands falling in the same category claimed for the P & T Unions, wide trade union and political rights including the right for their members to take part in political activities.

They demanded that

(a) the departmental rules relating to the recruitment, promotion and transfer etc, should be given a legal and contractual basis,

(b) that rule 5 of the Central Civil Service (Temporary) Service Rules which provides for the discharge of a temporary employee, not in possession of quasi-permanency status, on one month's notice be cancelled, and

(c) the Safeguarding of National Security Rules be repealed.

As regards these it is hardly necessary for me to point out that the employees of the P & T Department are government servants governed by the various service rules framed by the appropriate authorities in accordance with the powers vested in them by or under the Constitution and there can be no question of the P & T Rules lacking any constitutional sanction or the P & T employees being placed above or outside the various service and conduct rules which govern the service conditions and conduct of all civil servants.

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

Another important demand pertains to the grant of compensatory allowance to P & T employees posted in Assam. This matter has been considered by us and certain tentative conclusions have been reached. We have addressed the State Government in this behalf.

Regarding the upgrading of certain towns for purposes of admissibility of increased house rent and compensatory allowances, the matter will be considered carefully and in detail in general for all Government employees.

In the second category there were a number of demands relating to the employees of the P & T Department only. These related to matters such as enlargement of the avenues of promotion, provision of better rest rooms and dormitories, construction of staff quarters and P & T colonies etc. These demands were gone into carefully and a number of them have already been conceded. I would like to mention in particular the following concessions which have been announced to them —

(1) The avenues of promotion have been enlarged. All posts of time scale Supervisors in the Post Offices, RMS, and DLOs, carrying the scale of Rs 60/170 plus allowances have been upgraded to those of Lower Selection Grade in the scale of Rs 160/250. Further all Lower Selection Grade Head Post Offices in the grade of Rs 160/250 have been upgraded to Higher Selection Grade in the scale of Rs 250/325.

(2) Special relaxation will be granted to enable the recruitment of sons or dependents of such employees as die or become permanently incapacitated as a result of accident while on duty.

(3) Efforts will be made for constructing an appreciably larger number of staff quarters, dormitories, rest houses, dispensaries, etc.

(4) A Telegraph Enquiry Committee has already been appointed.

(5) The proposal for the creation of the cadre of Assistant Inspectors of Post Offices and RMS which might have adversely affected avenues of promotion has been abandoned.

(6) Split duty at night has been abolished and Night Duty Co-efficient has been liberalised.

(7) Water allowance will be sanctioned at the same rate as is allowed to the State Government employees.

(8) A Standing Committee will be set up to provide a machinery for the negotiation and speedy settlement of disputes.

(9) A National Welfare Board for P & T employees will be set up to draw up a comprehensive plan for their welfare.

It is true that it has not been possible for us to accept some of the demands made by the Federation but the reasons of our inability to accept them were fully explained to the representatives of the Federation. There were some other demands also in respect of which final decisions have not yet been taken. These were fully discussed with the representatives of the Federation and after ascertaining their point of view and exploring the possibility of reasonable compromises, references have been made to other authorities concerned. These matters are being pursued on the basis of priority.

Despite the Government having given close attention to its Charter of Demands, the Federation and the nine federated unions have, on July 15 served a notice on Government declaring their intention to call a strike with effect from the mid-night of the 8th of August. In the Annexure to this notice they have listed their demands which are more or less the same as had been made earlier except, of course, that most of the demands which have already been conceded, have been deleted. I have already dealt with these matters and I have nothing more to add.

I would not like to take more time of the House by going into further details but I would certainly like to say that in respect of such demands as affect the P & T Department only, we have in the past discussed matters across the table fully and we can do so in future. In fact, as mentioned earlier, my idea is to have a **STANDING COMMITTEE** which should meet at frequent intervals not merely to discuss the demands but also to keep a constant watch over action taken in pursuance of agreements previously reached. I feel disappointed, Sir, that I did not get a favourable response from the Federation. Perhaps there is still time for the Federation to think afresh and to prefer the somewhat plain but fruitful method of negotiation. Hon'ble Members will remember the dislocation and inconvenience caused to the public by the Telegraphists refraining from performing over-time duty. The Union agreed to call off the movement after discussion with Shri Raj Bahadurji but I am not sure whether even in the absence of such a deliberate movement, some of our officials are performing their duties with zeal and efficiency as they ought to. In the result, we get numerous complaints from the public

A strike of this nature at the present moment would be fraught with grave consequences. The Government will, however, do their utmost to fulfil their obligations, however, onerous they might be. I would once again appeal in all earnestness to the P & T Workers' leaders to choose the path of reason and moderation

COTTON FABRICS (ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY) BILL*

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection in certain circum-

stances of an additional duty of excise on cotton fabrics issued out of mills.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection in certain circumstances of an additional duty of excise on cotton fabrics issued out of mills"

The motion was adopted

Shri Kanungo: I introduce** the Bill

DEMAND FOR GRANT—RAILWAYS.—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on Demand for Grant No. 1 in respect of Railways. As the House is aware, six hours have been provisionally allotted for the discussion and voting on this Demand with discretion to the Chair to extend it by an hour if necessary. Out of this, 30 minutes have been availed of and 5 hours and 30 minutes now remain.

As announced yesterday, Hon. Members may hand over at the Table within an hour the numbers of the selected cut motions which they propose to move on this Demand.

Shri Sonavane (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch Castes): At about 11:27 I have given some cut motions. I would request that those cut motions may also be allowed and circulated to the Members

Mr. Speaker: He has given notice just now. Let him indicate the numbers

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Sir, I rise to a point of order on discussion on the Railway Budget procedure. My point of order is whether after the coming into force of the Constitution, in view of article 112, the Convention relating to the separation of Railway finances from the General finances can survive, and

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