

he may be innocent—but the fact remains there. What is on trial is not the fortunes of the Congress Party. We know they are in doldrums. What is more important is this, Let not the interest of the party prevail against the interest of India. When the Kashmiri people chose to accede to India, it was because India was a democracy. If elections are not be free and fair in Kashmir, what is it that we are going to offer? Today, if in some sections of the Kashmiri people—I have mentioned it again and again—there is a kind of frustration and resentment, it is not against India. It is against this kind of practices that they resent because they are never allowed to enjoy the common heritage of fellow Indians.

Once again, this Government is going to commit the same mistake. The Kashmiri people, like the rest of India, must be given the same right, the same privileges and the same freedom to elect their Government, including the possibility of changing the Government. If the Kashmiri people realise that they can change an unwanted Government, no Pakistani pressure, no insinuation, can ever make a dent on their thinking about the accession to India.

The hon. Minister has given an assurance that the Chief Secretary has been asked to look into it. Why does he not prevail upon the Chief Election Commissioner to be present in Kashmir? It is not enough to say that a senior officer is going there. I do not know what is seniority here. These are very vague terms. A Section Officer is very often a senior officer. I do not know how senior he is, whether he refers to the status or the age of the officer. He may be a man approaching retirement and, therefore, senior. I want that the Chief Election Commissioner himself or somebody of that status should be there. Further, it is no use locking the stable after the horse has bolted away; it is no use taking care after the malpractices, after such practices, are resorted to. These complaints should be enquired into immediately and an assurance given to the electors that the elections will be fair as they are entitled to.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : A senior officer is not an old man as has

been said. One of the Secretaries of the Election Commission, Mr. Rajgopalan, is going there to study the matter. After all, a telegram received is only an allegation. He has been asked to look into the matter and see that these things do not take place.

SHRI NATH PAI : Why not the Chief Election Commissioner? Since there is a history behind it, because 22 elections were rigged and you know how the High Court has said about it—I do not want to repeat it—let the Chief Election Commissioner go there. In the light of the serious allegations in the light of the fact that it is India that is on trial and the whole world sees what is happening in the Valley, why not persuade the Election Commissioner to go and inspire confidence? What will be lost?

SHRI GOVINDA MENON : The Chief Election Commissioner who is responsible for the conduct of elections has selected one of his senior-most officers to go there. It is not for me to direct the Chief Election Commissioner.

SHRI NATH PAI : I said, 'convey'; did not say 'direct'.

12.15½ hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE
COAL MINES (AMENDMENT)
REGULATIONS 1969

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coal Mines (Amendment) Regulations 1969, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 945 (English version) and G.S.R. 946 (Hindi version) in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1969, under sub-section (7) of section 59 of the Mines Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—859/69]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
(FORTY-EIGHT REPORT)

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI (Patna) : I present the Forty-eighth Rep-

ort of the Committee on Private Member's Bills and Resolutions.

12.16 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(Contd.)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION —(Contd.)

MR. SPEAKER : We have taken 25 minutes. Mr. Banerjee suggested that we could extend the time. I can extend by half an hour or a few minutes, but not by one hour.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : This is Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation. We are prepared to sit upto 7 P. M. I sit daily upto 7 P. M. Let the Minister reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : You suggested that yesterday. But already some objections have come to me. Some hon. members came to me and said that already a number of Demands were going to be guillotined and if the time was extended, a few more Demands would also have to be guillotined. When there is objection from some members, it is the Business Advisory Committee that can extend it because they fixed the time, I did not fix it. This time of four hours has been fixed by the Business Advisory Committee. If you want extension, I can place it before the Business Advisory Committee, but that is not possible today. I can extend the time by a few minutes or half an hour.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : At least one hour.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : At least one hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. P. M. Mehta was on his legs. He has taken seven minutes.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let the Minister reply at 5 P. M.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall accept Mr. Banerjee's suggestion. The Minister will reply at 5 P. M.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar) : Yesterday I was speaking about port and dock workers. I appreciate the measures taken by the Ministry with a view to giving benefits to the workers who remain out of the purview of the registered schemes. The Ministry has published different schemes recently. in September, 1968 and January, 1969 Under these schemes, the dock workers of Kandla Port and the dock workers of Visakhapatnam will get the benefit. The chipping and painting workers also will get the benefit under the different schemes which have been published recently. I would like to mention the benefits which these workers will get. I think, by these schemes, nearly 7,000 workers will be covered. The registered dock workers will now have the benefit of guaranteed minimum wage at least for 12 days in a month. Attendance allowance at the rate of Re. 1 or Rs. 1.25 per day will also be granted. They will also get the holidays with pay. In a year they will get 8 paid holidays. They will also get Provident Fund and gratuity and they will also get medical aid, housing and some recreational facilities. Normally under the un-registered and listing scheme the workers are not entitled to the statutory benefits and medical facilities. But here under the Kandla unregistered scheme and Visakhapatnam un-registered scheme the workers will get the benefit of all facilities, guaranteed minimum wages, attendance allowance, etc. Thus I think the Labour Ministry has given a fair consideration to the problem of the dock workers.

I would also like to deal with the employees of the railways. They have been given a procedure for the redressal of their grievances. They have a permanent negotiating machinery, but, Sir, this machinery is not at all satisfactory. It has its own shortcomings. One is that the grievances of an individual worker are not given place though they are of a general nature and the representatives of the labour are not in a position to put the grievances of the worker on the agenda of the meeting. Secondly, false notions and old conceptions of the employer-employee relations on the part of the Railway administration come in the