

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Labour Minister was here a little while ago and that is why I wanted to raise it then; anyhow, you will kindly convey it to him.

The third thing was that labour is a subject in the Concurrent List as well. The hon. Speaker or the Labour Minister were not satisfied and the hon. Minister was not willing to make a statement. Today I have tabled a calling-attention notice under article 353 of the Constitution which reads:—

“notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to any State as to the manner in which the executive power thereof is to be exercised;”.

My submission is only this. There is an emergency as all of us know, though we sincerely want this to be withdrawn; the strike is going on in Bombay involving two lakhs of workers and in today's newspapers it is given that all textile mills are closed excepting one. The textile industry has come to a standstill; so, I will request you that the Labour Minister may be asked to make a statement and to advise properly the State Government on how to do it.

Previously under article 353 many calling-attention notices were admitted because there is an emergency and the Centre has got the power to give directions to the States. We feel that today, when such a strike is going on which is affecting production of cloth, we may be in need of it. So, I will request the Labour Minister to make a statement on it and he should clarify his position.

I should like to protest to you about one thing. The Labour Minister fully knew that a calling-attention notice was pending. He fully knew that he was asked to show reason why it should not be admitted. They treat this House with contempt tomorrow of the day after when the whole thing will become a story, we will sit in the House and do post mortem. I have raised it several times.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuzha): I am also a signatory to the notice and I was also asked by the Speaker to argue how it comes up in this House. One of the issues that is agitating the minds of the workers and is the cause of the strike is that some textile mills were closed for some time and on many occasions previously in this House the Commerce Minister had taken up that subject, answered questions and had promised this House and the country that he would take steps by several methods to see that these mills are opened; but, I understand that many of his promises and assurances have not been fulfilled. This is one of the issues involved in this strike in addition to the bonus issue and other questions which were raised by my hon. friend, Shri Banerjee. So, we have every right to get a statement from the Central Government. It is a very vital and important issue.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The matter has been referred to the Labour Minister and as soon as he is ready, he will make a statement. He will find out what the position is and then we will consider it. This has been kept pending.

13.07 hrs.

PERMISSION TO MEMBERS WHO
WERE ASKED TO LEAVE THE
HOUSE TO RETURN

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो माननीय सदस्य बाहर निकाले गये हैं, उन के बारे में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप उन को वापस बुला लें, क्योंकि जब मैंने एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाया था, तो अमल में दोषी तो मैं हूँ। अगर आप समझते हैं कि मेरे बाहर जाने से दोष का मार्जन हो सकता है, तो मैं चला जाता हूँ और आप उन माननीय सदस्यों को बुला लीजिए, वरना मेरे दिल में यह खटका रहेगा कि मेरे सब से उन को निकाल दिया गया।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would the House like to permit them to come in?

Some hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They may be called in; but the only thing is that they should behave well.

डा० राम न गोहर लोहिया : मैं आपको बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ ।

13.08 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1966-67. Shri Priya Gupta may continue his speech

श्री प्रीय (अलीगढ़) : श्रीमन्, कितना समय खत्म हो गया है और कितना बाकी रह गया है ?

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was talking about bonus, but before I start talking about that may I draw the attention of the Ministry of Railways, through you, to the agreement between the Ministry of Railways and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the discussions held on 10th November, 1951 and 23rd August, 1951 in which it was agreed that as the third tier of the PNM machinery—

“A tribunal would be set up at the Centre consisting of equal representation from labour and Railways with an impartial Chairman which will be empowered to investigate any dispute between the Railway Board and the AIRF which may be referred to them.”

My question is: Why has this not been implemented as yet? All the disputes of railwaymen which were being discussed at the second tier of the Railway Board—there is no agreement on most of the points—are kept in cold storage.

Now, I would remind you of a recent speech of a man of the stature of the President of India, the Head of the

State, Dr. Radhakrishnan, who said:—

“Labour must have its due place in industry, No real progress in industry could be achieved unless the workers were treated as human beings and not merely as commodities.”

When he was inaugurating the Central Labour Institute constructed at a cost of Rs. 35 lakhs. The question is whether these things will remain simply in big words or whether these things will be implemented.

Then, I come to the question of bonus. The railwaymen fulfil both the conditions. The first condition is that the industry should make profits and the second condition is that the industry must have competition with the other mode of transport. The Railways are making profits and there is also competition with the road transport. I know in the circulars issued by the Railway Board in respect of the North-Eastern Railway and the Northern Railway, some special efforts were to be made for making good the possible loss of traffic income in competition with the road transport in U.P. This is a fact. Both the conditions are fulfilled by the railwaymen. The Government comes out to say that the railwaymen cannot be given bonus at par with other public sector undertaking employees because they are departmental workers. In the various Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Defence, etc., there are clerks who are given a special type of concession in respect of calculation of overtime allowance. When the All India Railwaymen's Federation demanded the same principle for calculation of overtime allowance, the reply of the Minister was that the clerks in the Railways are industrial workers whereas the clerks in the other Ministries are departmental workers. It is by this argument that that facility was not extended to them. But when they demand bonus, the Government of India says that they are departmental workers and that bonus can only be given to the industrial workers.