

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Hem Raj.—

12.19 hrs.

PETITIONS RE: PUNJAB REORGANISATION BILL, 1966.

Shri Hem Raj: (Kangra): I present a petition signed by Shri Gangu Ram and other inhabitants of Una Tehsil, Anandpur Sahib block, relating to the Punjab Reorganisation Bill, 1966.

Shri Pratap Singh (Sirmur): I present a petition signed by Chaudhari Shanti Sarup and other inhabitants of Kandi District Hoshiarpur, relating to the Punjab Reorganisation Bill, 1966.

श्री दलजीत सिंह: (ऊना) : इस में एक मेरा संशोधन है कि लाखों आदिमियों ने कर्नाल, पानीपत, अम्बाला और चन्डीगढ़ और जो जाबी रोजन के हिस्से पंजाब से अलग किए गए हैं, पंजाब में ही रहने के लिए वहां से रेप्रेजेंटेशन लाखों आदिमियों ने दिये हैं होम मिनिस्टर, प्राइम मिनिस्टर और वांडर्री कमीशन को, वे भी इस पेशन में शामिल कर लिये जायें।

Mr. Speaker: What does Shri Daljit Singh want to say now? I have not been able to follow him. This is only a petition which is being presented, and nothing can be said at this moment on that.

श्री मधु लिमये: (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय कल आपने यह भी कहा है कि आप का बयान भी छप जायेगा, लेकिन आप देखें रहे हैं, मिनिस्टर्स की गलतबयानी को ढूँढने के लिये... (व्यवधान) लेकिन हमारी बात तो किसी भी अखबार में नहीं, आयी इसलिए मैं इसे पढ़ना चाहूंगा। मैं आप का ध्यान डाइरेक्शन 115 की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ :

"Member shall make a statement . . ."

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं मेम्बर्स को संकलित कर दूंगा।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बार-बार आपने वॉटे की बहस हमारी तरफ से होती

है, और भी चर्चा होती है लेकिन यह अखबार वाले हमारी एक बात भी नहीं छापते हैं। डाइरेक्शन 115 के अनुसार...

12.21 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INFORMATION GIVEN BY COMMERCE MINISTER AND MINISTER'S REPLY THERETO

Mr. Speaker: Shri Madhu Limaye and the hon. Minister might lay their statements on the Table of the House and I shall get them circulated to the Members.

श्री मधु लिमये: लेकिन अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब अखबार वाले हमारी बात को छापते ही नहीं हैं और मिनिस्टर्स द्वारा उनको अपना विज्ञापन देने का साधन बनाया जाता है... (व्यवधान)

Mr. Speaker: But I can ask him to place it on the Table of the House.

श्री मधु लिमये: जहां तक छापने का सवाल है, मैं ने इन की गलतबयानी को पकड़ा...

Mr. Speaker: How long is that statement?

श्री मधु लिमये: एक सफ का है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पढ़ लीजिए।

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza (Warrangal): On a point of order. May I know whether statements and speeches in this House are to be made so that they are to be published in the press, and if they are not published, whether Members are to be given additional opportunity to make them here so that those things can be published?

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): Should it be forced on us?

श्री मधु लिमये: स्पीकर साहब ने कहा, इस लिए मैं ने उसका उल्लेख किया।

Shri Raghunath Singh: If it is not published outside, that should not be a ground for forcing it on us.

श्री मधु लिमये : फोर्स का क्या मतलब है ? नियम है । . . . (व्यवधान) ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप पढ़ने दीजिए ।

श्री क० ना० लिबारी : (बगहा) :
प्वॉइंट ऑफ आर्डर । कल मधु लिमये जी ने इस को पढ़ना चाहा लेकिन यह एलाऊ नहीं किया गया । इन हो का गया कि टेबल पर रख दोजिए । जब यह फंसला कल होगया तो उस का रिवीजन आज चाहते हैं , आज वह चाहते हैं कि चूकि अखबार में नहीं उपा तो उन को पढ़ने दिया जायगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं न देखा, एक सफे का है, तां इजाजत दे दी, कि एक सफा पढ़ दिया जाय । इसमें प्वॉइंट ऑफ आर्डर क्या है ?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): On a point of order. It has already been ruled yesterday that it shall be laid on the Table of the House. It is not the responsibility of the House to see that the Member's statement should be got published in the press, and if it is not published in the press, that should not be a ground for our hearing about it again here.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप नियम 115 पढ़िये ।

श्री भगवत झा अजाद : आप नये नये आये हैं, पढ़ते रहिए नियम ।

Mr. Speaker: What I had said the other day was in regard to that particular statement, and I had said that the statement might be laid on the Table of the House. That did not mean that it applied to all statements that were going to be made thereafter and that all such statements should be laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Under what rule is this exception being made?

Shri Raghunath Singh: You have said that the statement would be circulated to

the Members. So, what is the use of reading it here?

Mr. Speaker: This is not that statement that was circulated earlier.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: How is this statement being allowed to be made? Is it there on the Order Paper?

Mr. Speaker: It is a statement under Direction 115 and it is there on the Order Paper.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I do not know which statement he is making. There are so many statements which he is making.

Mr. Speaker: This statement is a different statement altogether.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: You have given a ruling that whenever a privilege motion is brought forward, first you will see it in the Chamber and satisfy yourself before you allow it to be brought up in the House. In this case, I would like to know whether you have satisfied yourself in your Chamber before allowing this statement to be made here:

Mr. Speaker: I have satisfied myself that there is a cause or a reason why I should give him the opportunity here and listen to the argument.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The hon. Member is bringing wild charges against the AICC and the Congress Party. I would like to know whether you have satisfied yourself in your Chamber before allowing him to make that charge here. Every day we are being abused here, and we expect your protection. (Interruptions)

Shri Daji (Indore): Rather, you should protect us.

Shri Daljit Singh: On a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Shri J. B. Kripalani.

Shri J. B. Kripalani (Amroha): May I request both sides of the House....

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: A point of order has been raised by Shri Daljit Singh. You have not heard it.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow him after Shri Kripalani.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: His point of order was raised first. Therefore you have to hear him first. Then Shri Kripalani can have his say (*Interruptions*). I was referring to rules, I was not quoting directions.... (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Shri Azad should sit down. This is not the manner in which we should conduct our proceedings. (*Interruptions*). Should I be a silent spectator to this kind of thing that is going on? I am appealing to both sides. I am asking Shri Azad to sit down. I am asking all the other hon. Members who are standing also to resume their seats (*Interruptions*).

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav (Barabanki): He has made certain allegations against you.

Several hon. Members: No.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We are not making allegations; it is the SSP which is doing it.

Shri J. B. Kripalani: May I request both the sides to allow you to carry on the discussion in this House and not interfere with what you are doing? Otherwise, it will be confusion. May I humbly request the Congress members..... (*Interruptions*).

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Barrack-pore): It is the Opposition which is always thrown out, you are never thrown out (*Interruptions*).

Shri J. B. Kripalani: I am only requesting that we conduct the proceedings in this House with some system. The Congress people have a majority. They always accuse the Opposition of creating trouble. When the Opposition people create trouble, if they remain silent and do not add to the confusion, I think things would go on much better (*Interruptions*). This is all I am saying, because when I was a young man, if I wanted to disturb a meeting, I used to raise a cry; the other side then raised a cry and the meeting was over. This is my experience.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): We are younger.

Shri J. B. Kripalani: In those days, the Moderates used to organise meetings and

I had disturbed their meetings. You, the Congress people, are doing the same thing.

Shri Tyagi: You have taught us.

Shri J. B. Kripalani: I would request both sides to allow our Speaker to conduct the proceedings in this House.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order Shri Daljit Singh wanted to raise?

Shri Daljit Singh: I only wanted to say that if it was necessary that he should make any other statement here, it should have been also brought on the agenda paper of today (*Interruptions*).

Some hon. Members: It is there (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Shri Madhu Limaye.

श्री मधु लिमये: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात पर खेद है कि मैं ने आज के सामने दियासलाई के जॉ बक्से पेश किए थे उस के बैडरोल पर कोई रबर-स्टैम्प नहीं लगा हुआ था फिर भी श्री मनुभाई शाह ने अपने पत्र में और उन के द्वारा जो गलतबयानी की गई, उस में यह कहा है कि पहले से यह रबर स्टैम्प लगते थे।

इनके बयान का वह हिस्सा इस प्रकार है—

"It was not the intention of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan or the Khadi Commission to sell fewer matches than what is mentioned on the banderol..."

"...Therefore, the Khadi Commission had adopted the procedure of over-stamping by a rubber stamp '25 sticks' even when the banderol used was for 50 matches as the Excise authorities could not supply them banderols for 25 matches".

इसका मतलब हुआ कि आपके द्वारा छः टेलीफोन किये जाने के पहले भी माचिस के बक्सों पर रबर स्टैम्प लगता था लेकिन मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस दिन मैंने आपके सामने वह बक्से रखे, न केवल उसके पहले बल्कि 18 अगस्त को भी यह सिलसिला चलता रहा। मेरे पास एक रसीद और दो बक्से मौजूद हैं

[श्री मधु लिमये]

जो 18 अगस्त को खरीदे गए थे। अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये दो बक्से हैं, वे मैं आपके सामने पेश करता हूँ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं सुन सकता हूँ, एक्जिबिट्स यहां नहीं लेता ।

श्री मधु लिमये : ये आपकी जानकारी के लिये हैं। अच्छा रहने दीजिये ।

श्री मनुभाई शाह खुर्दवीन (मैनीफाइंग ग्लास) लेकर आये और इसको देख लें, अगर कहीं रबर स्टैम्प मिला तो मैं अपनी बात वापस लूंगा। और अचरज की बात यह है कि श्री मनुभाई शाह के द्वारा दखल देने पर, यानी 19 तारीख को, वंडरील पर तो पच्चीस का रबर स्टैम्प लगवाने का परिवर्तन हो गया, लेकिन इसका दाम जहां पहले सात पैसा था, उस की जगह पर दस पैसा कर दिया गया अब इस बक्से में कितनी दियासलाइयां मिलती ह, यह खुद, अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप गिन कर देख लें, मेरा ब्याल है 25 ही मिलेगी - मैंने इस चोरी की और जो ध्यान दिलाया और उस पर मंत्री महोदय ने जो कुछ कार्यवाही की, उन के हस्तक्षेप का नतीजा क्या हुआ? जो 25 दियासलाई का बक्सा पहले 7 पैसे में मिलता अब दस पैसे में मिलने लगा है। मेरा ब्याल है कि 50 दियासलाइयों का सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित दाम 7 पैसा है इस लिए मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अबकारी एक्ससाइज कानून ग्रामोद्योग के लिए लागू नहीं है? क्या विम्को भी 25 दियासलाइयों का बक्सा बना कर 7 और 10 पैसे में बेच सकता है? या यह बक्सा डि-लक्स बक्सा है खादी के के साथ महात्मा जी का नाम जुड़ा हुआ है और वही खादी भण्डार वाले लोग ऐसा कर रहे हैं, तो इसके बारे में अब यह सदन कोई ठोस कार्यवाही करे ।

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay a statement in reply thereto

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy (Koppal): On a point of information, may I point out that he had said that the Manager had been asked to go on compulsory leave, but he is still at the post.

Shri Tyagi: After this statement, may I submit that the matter should not be closed without a contradiction? Otherwise, Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan might suffer in its reputation. Could you kindly permit the Minister to give a reply?

Shri Manubhai Shah: I am laying a statement on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: I have called him and he says he is laying it on the Table.

Shri Tyagi: That is all right.

श्री रामसेवक यादव अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैनेजर के ट्रांसफर के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने कुछ नहीं कहा ।

श्री हुकुम चन्द कछवाय : अब लोगों पर दबाव डाला जा रहा है ।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Do not interrupt the proceedings.

[The statement in reply by the Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah)]

The Hon'ble Members have just heard the statement that has been made by Shri Madhu Limaye on the sale of match boxes by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi. I had already explained the actual position in my earlier statement in the House on the 23rd August last regarding the sale of match boxes and sub-standard honey by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi. In the statement made today, Shri Madhu Limaye has raised the following points chiefly:

- (i) that match-boxes purchased by Shri Madhu Limaye from the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi do not bear the over-stamping of the Excise banderol "50 sticks" by the rubber-stamp "25 sticks" to which I had referred in my statement in the House on the 23rd August.

- (ii) that while the match boxes had been sold earlier at 7 paise each, the price of the same was apparently increased in the Bhavan to 10 paise after the 20th August, 1966.

2. Detailed enquiries have been made into both these points and the factual position in regard to them is as follows:—

This over-stamping by rubber-stamp of "25 sticks" on the Excise banderol which shows "50 sticks" is done at the Bombay Suburban Village Industries Association's Kora Gramodyog Kendra at Bombay and not by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi, which merely receives the match-boxes from Bombay in ready-made packets of 12 match-boxes in each packet, after the rubber-stamping at Bombay.

A detailed check was made on the morning of 29th August of 6 packets of 12 match-boxes each, selected at random by Shri Santokh Singh, Member, Rajya Sabha in the presence of Joint Secretary, Commerce Ministry and the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies, in the godown of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi. The following were the results of the check:—

Packet No. 1.—12 out of 12 match-boxes bore the correct marking "25 sticks".

Packet No. 2.—11 out of the 12 match-boxes bore the correct marking.

Packet No. 3.—12 out of 12 bore the correct marking.

Packet No. 4.—10 out of 12 bore the correct marking.

Packet No. 5.—8 out of 12 bore the correct marking.

Packet No. 6.—12 out of 12 bore the correct marking.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the omission of the over-stamping "25 sticks" in the case of some of these boxes in these packets seems to have been due to accidental omission as such work is manually done by labourers in the Kora Gramodyog Kendra of the Bombay Suburban Village Industries Association (a Society

registered under the Societies Registration Act). In doing such hand-stamping, some boxes might have passed off unstamped. As stated by the Honble Member, the match boxes purchased by him from Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan at New Delhi did not bear the rubber stamp marking of "25 sticks". As far as can be ascertained, the omission of rubber-stamping on some boxes in some of these packets was due to carelessness on the part of the workers responsible for the rubber-stamping at the Kora Gramodyog Kendra at Bombay. It does not seem to be a *male fide* action, but the omission is regretted.

(ii) The 'Champion' brand match boxes are special deluxe match boxes of hand-made matches made by Kora Gramodyog Kendra at Bombay. These matches are made by the Kora Gramodyog Kendra in boxes of 25 sticks and the regular sale-price of these match boxes has been 10 paise per box of 25 sticks. These matches are non-standard fancy matches which are made with the approval of the Central Excise Department; the sticks are better-made and superior and carry the highest rate of duty in the Excise Tariff for matches. Although the regular sale price of these match boxes is 10 paise per box of 25 sticks, the Local Price Reduction Committee of the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan at New Delhi authorised the reduction in the selling price to 7 paise per box in the case of some old accumulated stocks of such match boxes. This old stock was cleared finally on the 18th of August, 1966 and from the 19th August, 1966, a fresh stock of de-luxe hand-made match boxes was received from the Kora Gramodyog Kendra at Bombay and was sold at the regular price of 10 paise per box of 25 sticks. The sale of these match boxes was suspended by the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan from the morning of 22nd August as per the instructions of the Commerce Ministry (through the Khadi & Village Industries Commission) on receipt of the earlier complaint of the Hon'ble Member regarding the absence of over-stamping of "25 sticks" on the Central Excise banderol.

In order to avoid any misunderstanding in the minds of common buyers instructions

have already been issued to the Khadi Commission that until such time as the number of match sticks shown on the rubber stamp corresponds to the actual number of sticks in the box, the sale of these match boxes should be stopped.

12.33 hrs.

PUNJAB REORGANISATION BILL*

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Punjab and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Punjab and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Nanda: I introduce† the Bill.

12.34 hrs.

MOTION RE : RECENT RAILWAY ACCIDENTS—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Singhvi to reply to the debate.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): I am grateful to the Members who participated in the discussion on the statement of the Railway Minister with regard to railway accidents. The hon. Minister, Mr. S. K. Patil, with his characteristically disarming spirit of accommodation, accompanied by his characteristic diplomacy, has replied to the various points raised in general and has not met any of the points that were made here in particular.

Mr. Speaker: I wish particularly to emphasise that we here in this House are not engaged in mere talking marathons; we are interested in finding solutions and in helping to formulate policies. We are here to elicit specific and concrete replies to specific and concrete suggestions which are made here. In extension of the hon.

Minister's speech it may be said that since he had accepted in general the various suggestions made here and also very good-humouredly agreed to look into the various suggestions in greater detail, perhaps he did not feel called upon to clarify the various issues raised here. Unfortunately, many points that were raised with respect to the all-important question of railway accidents therefore remain in confusion. I had mentioned particularly that Dr. Kunzru had said that the various recommendations made in the report of the railway accidents enquiry committee had not been fully implemented and I suggested that either Dr. Kunzru himself or some other committee should be appointed to go into the question of the quality and quantum of the implementation of the various recommendations made in the committee's report. I would like a very specific reply to this.

Various demands were made about instituting a thorough enquiry into the recent spate of accidents and a clear and specific answer has unfortunately not been forthcoming. A charge was made in a written article by an hon. Member of this House. Mr. Kamal Nayan Bajaj, that inferior equipment was being supplied by the contractors and that substandard quality equipment was being used for the maintenance and preparing the track. Unless this charge is not suitably replied to, doubts remain in our mind as to whether what the railway administration has done is adequate or not. I think it would be in the interest of the Railway Administration itself to see that this charge is met squarely and straightforwardly. I had also mentioned in respect of the shortage of staff and the poor planning of staff requirements. The hon. Minister was good enough to say that he would look into this matter sympathetically and in a scientific spirit. I hope this is done soon and he reports to the house as to what he has done in fulfilment of this assurance. I had particularly raised one question in respect of the shortage of the proportion of the supervisory personnel and cited

*Published in Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 3rd September, 1966

†Introduced with the recommendations of the President.