

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 10, 1980/Asāḍha 19,
1902 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agreement with Striking Loco Employees

*471. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHE-
KHARA MURTHY:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been
reached between the loco strike em-
ployees and his Ministry on 17th June,
1980;

(b) if so, what were the points of
agreement;

(c) the extent to which the demands
of employees have been fully met;

(d) what is the estimated loss
suffered due to this strike; and

(e) what efforts Railways were
making to overcome this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF):
(a) to (e). A statement is laid on
the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) An agreement between the re-
presentatives of the Loco Running
Staff Association and the Northern
Railway Administration, (and not
between the employees and the Minis-
try) has been reached.

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(b) and (c). The agitating loco
running staff insisted on the follow-
ing demands being met before resum-
ing duty:

(i) "No work, no pay" rule should
not be enforced.

(ii) None of the Loco Running
Staff should be taken up, for any
reason.

(iii) SHO/GRP, Rohtak should be
suspended.

(iv) The commuters who man-
handled the engine crew should be
arrested.

(v) Break in service should not
be imposed.

(vi) All suburban passenger
trains should be provided with
armed escorts.

An agreement was reached on 16th
June 1980 in which it was agreed that
to enable an impartial enquiry being
held, the Haryana Government will
be approached to consider temporary
shifting of SHO/GRP, Rohtak at
least during the pendency of the en-
quiry. It was agreed that there will
be no break in service but the ab-
sence of the staff during the strike
will be treated as "no work, no pay"
and the cases where departmental
action had been taken will be review-
ed. It was also agreed to provide
escorts on selected commuter trains
for next few days.

(d) Rs. 175.73 lakhs.

(e) Efforts were made to run essen-
tial passenger and goods train ser-
vices by deploying Territorial Army
Personnel and with the help of the
loyal staff who were provided pro-
tection by police patrol and RPF Per-
sonnel. Efforts were concentrated on
the movement of most essential com-
modities viz coal for power houses, coal
for railways, POL and food grains to
draught affected areas.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the year 1977, in Janata and Lok Dal regime, we had lost about 37.1 million mandays due to industrial disputes like lock-outs and strikes. Even though a productivity-linked bonus was given to railway employees, the relationship was not at all improved. In view of the fact that even though the Northern Railway strike was called off, some of the employees are on the work-to-rule agitation. If so, what action the Government proposes to take?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the question is related to the recent strike which was in the Northern Railway. But this strike was not, as the Member has just now explained, on the work-to-rule. This strike was an unfortunate strike on a very stray incident. So, the question that the Member has raised does not arise out of this question that has been put.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: During the strike some of the employees were engaged in criminal activities such as acid-throwing and damage to railway properties. In view of this fact, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether such employees were taken back to work and if so, the total number of such persons.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, the employees were responsible for sabotage or intimidation or victimisation and such employees have not been taken on duty. However, when an agreement was reached, a Committee was appointed to review the cases. That was a part of the agreement and that Committee has reviewed the cases on their merits and such of those employees who were not involved in such kinds of crimes have been taken back.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Sir, such frequent strikes caused huge losses to the exchequer and so much dislocation to the movements of cargo and

passengers. This time the strike caused a loss of Rs. 175.73 lakhs to the exchequer. Sir, the strike was sparked off on account of this small incident and it dragged on. Even now, there is a rumour going on that the employees are not satisfied, they may resort to strike again. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether before such an incident happens again, is there any mechanism with the Ministry to see that the employees can approach before they resort to such extreme step.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: There is already a provision for a Grievances Committee at the zonal level. The employees and the administration always sit together and sort things out. There is always scope to come to an understanding. As my hon. friend has pointed out, there is a way out for the employees always to negotiate with the administration before going on strike.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष जी, लोको हड़ताली कर्मचारियों ने सरकार के सामने मुख्यतया 6 मांगें रखी थीं, जिन में से सरकार ने अंशतः 5 मांगों को माना और एक मांग जो "नो वर्क नो पे" वाली बात थी उस को नहीं माना। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कर्मचारी हड़ताल पर अभी हालत में आते हैं

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सवाल पूछिये।

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : सरकार का ध्यान दिलाने के लिए लोको कर्मचारियों ने जो हड़ताल की और सरकार ने उनको वापस काम पर माना, क्या सरकार हम पर विचार करेगी कि "नो वर्क नो पे" वाली मांग को भी मान लिया जाए ताकि जिन हड़ताली कर्मचारियों ने हड़ताल के दौरान काम नहीं किया उन्हें भी वनक्वाट मिल सके ?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Actually, this does not arise out of the original question. However, I would like to say that the employees have accepted "no work, no pay".

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: From the reply which the hon. Minister has given it seems that the issue has been resolved, but I would like

to point out that on the 3rd July, only seven days ago, the employees concerned in this, the Association with which they have reached an agreement, had written to the Railway Ministry stating firstly that the situation has not been normalised, secondly that the spirit of no victimisation has been replaced by a vindictive spirit not only by the railway authorities but also by the Haryana police, thirdly that every time bail is obtained, a new case is slapped against the employees and they are put behind bars, whenever they have been released they have been arrested, and fourthly that the position as it stands today is that 64 persons are still out of service, 40 persons have been reverted to the post of cleaner from driver. So, will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether he still stands by his reply or he would try to go through the complaints which the employees have made and set things right before they once again get out of hand?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I appreciate the spirit of Mr. Fernandes who has been always on the forefront on such occasions, but let me tell the hon. Member that there has been complete satisfaction on the part of the employees with the agreement that has been reached. It is surprising to hear from the hon. Member that some workers who were released have been re-arrested. This kind of complaint has not reached the Ministry. We are not aware of it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I have personally talked with the Minister, Shri Tripathy and handed over to him a letter regarding those complaints.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I have quoted from a letter addressed to the Railway Ministry. He is not obviously running the Ministry.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: If the hon. Members interrupt me before I can reply, it will be very

difficult for me to answer. If something is brought to our notice, certainly we will look into it. We have entered into an agreement in a good spirit to gain the goodwill of the workers. It is not that we are not interested in having the goodwill of the workers.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But there is vindictiveness on the part of both the railways and the Haryana Government.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: All the workers who had been arrested have been released. Out of 196 workers who were removed from service, only 64 workers are out of service...

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: He says only 64 workers out of service. It is "only 64"... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowed; I am not allowing.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Let me assure the hon. Members who want to shout that we are equally the champions of workers, not they alone. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing him to answer. You are interrupting him again and again. You hear him fully what he has to say.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Let them not think they are the only people to protect the workers. We are equally anxious to protect the workers. Kindly bear with me; allow me to have my say.

The main questioner already put a question what action has been taken against the workers who were responsible for sabotage, intimidation and all that. Some of these workers who are out of service are the per-

song who are involved in these cases. Therefore, they are still out of service. The Review Committee is considering the cases on merit.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: May I know whether the Government appreciates or condemns the strike of workers which has resulted into a loss of Rs. 1.75 crores to the nation? Rs. 1.75 crores is only a direct loss. I want to know whether they have calculated how much the public has suffered on account of non-delivery of goods in time at several places. If that loss is calculated, it may go upto Rs. 10 crores. Is that a fact or not?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The figure mentioned is the direct loss. If the indirect loss is taken into consideration, it may be much more. But that has not been assessed.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Whether the Government appreciates it or condemns it.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: We condemn it.

श्री छांगुर राम : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे कर्मचारियों की जो मांगें थीं, वे करीब करीब सब उन्होंने मान लीं लेकिन वे मांगें हड़ताल में 175 लाख रुपये का नुकसान होने के बाद मानी हैं। इस तरह से मजदूर हो कर गवर्नमेंट ने उन की मांगें मानी हैं क्योंकि पहले जब ये मजदूर इन मांगों को लेकर मंत्री जी के पास, सरकार के पास गये थे तो उन्होंने उन मांगों को नहीं माना था। इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे रहिम साहब का यह दोहा याद आ रहा है, जिस को मैं सदन में सुनाना चाहता हूँ—

“रहिम चाक कुम्हार को मांग दिया न दे,
छेद में डंडा डाल कर चहे नाद ले ले।

यही हालत इस सरकार की है। मजदूर जब सीधे से मांगते थे तो इन्होंने उन की मांगों को नहीं माना लेकिन हड़ताल हो जाने पर उनको मान लिया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सवाल कीजिए।

श्री छांगुर राम : मैं सवाल ही पूछ रहा हूँ। 175 लाख रुपये का नुकसान होने के बाद उन की लगभग मांगों को सरकार ने मान लिया है। तो मैं आप की आज्ञा से मंत्री जी से यह सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी परिस्थिति को रोकने के लिए कि मजदूरों को हड़ताल न होने पावे, जब वे अपनी

मांगों को सरकार के सामने रखते हैं, तो उनकी उचित मांगों पर सरकार सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार करले ताकि हड़ताल में उन को न जाना पड़े।

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: The strike is on a non-issue. It is not based on an issue.

लखनऊ-बरेली रेल लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदला जाना

* 473. श्री राम लाल राही : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का विचार लखनऊ-बरेली मीटर गेज लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने का है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कार्य के कब तक आरम्भ होने की संभावना है ;

(ग) क्या उपरोक्त लाइन को बदलने की बजाय भुमावल-सीतापुर मीटर गेज लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलकर भुमावल में शाहजहापुर तक बड़ी लाइन का होना अधिक लाभप्रद तथा उपयोगी होगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इन लाइनों को बदलने में कितनी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ेगा और इस सम्बन्ध में ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to convert the Lucknow-Bareilly MG line into BG. The question of converting Burhwal-Sitapur line into BG is under examination.

श्री राम लाल राही : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मंत्री जो ने उत्तर दिया है। उस से मुझे बड़ा आश्चर्य लग रहा है कि इस प्रश्न के (ग) भाग में बड़वल-सीतापुर ब्रांच लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने के बारे में पूछा गया था लेकिन मंत्री जी ने कहा कि प्रश्न को जांच की जा रही है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्रश्न की जांच की जा रही या लाइन बदलने की जांच की जा रही है? अगर लाइन बदलने की जांच की जा रही है तो क्या कोई अधिकारी जांच करने के लिए वहां भेजा गया है, या वहां नियुक्त किया गया है और उसकी जांच रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जाएगी ?