

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE**

Monday, 19th April, 1954.

*The House met at Two of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(See Part I)

3 P.M.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.**

**DISTURBANCES IN SHAKUR BASTI  
ORDNANCE DEPOT.**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received a notice from Shri V. P. Nayar, under Rule 215, calling the attention of the Minister of Defence Organisation to the following matter of urgent public importance and requesting that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The serious developments that have taken place on 8th April, 1954 in Shakur Basti Ordnance Depot where the workers of the Depot were attacked by the M.D.S.C. men and severely beaten as a result of which ten persons were seriously injured.”

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Satish Chandra):** Sir, the Army Ordnance Corps Day was celebrated on 8th April, 1954. The programme included an athletic meet at Shakur-basti in which the military as well as the civilian employees of the Depot took part. Apart from contributions by Service personnel, a sum of

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Rs. 200/- was taken from the Labour Welfare Fund with the unanimous consent of the Works Committee of the Depot to meet the expenditure in connection with the celebrations. Sports were being held for about a week during the lunch hour breaks in preparation for the final meet on 8th April, 1954.

As the A.O.C. Day was not an official holiday, it was not possible to close the Depot and allow all the workers to witness the sports which began at 3 P.M. The Works Committee of the Depot had, however, agreed that a certain proportion of the civilian workers, in addition to those actually participating in the events, may be allowed to witness the sports during the working hours and the rest may join after the closing of the Depot at 4.50 P.M.

After the closing of the Depot on 8th April, 1954, when workers were coming to witness the sports, some of them numbering not more than 50 formed a procession and proceeded towards the sports ground shouting slogans, presumably because they were not allowed to witness the sports from 3 P.M.

A Civilian Officer of the Depot tried to persuade them to sit down quietly and watch the sports. As this did not have the desired effect, the Deputy Chief Ordnance Officer promptly went there and tried to cool them down. In the meantime, however, some of the other spectators who disapproved of the action of the processionists started arguing with them. In order to avoid

[Shri Satish Chandra.]

any serious untoward incident, the processionists were cordoned off and asked either to witness the sports peacefully or to disperse. Some of them agreed while others went away. There was no occasion whatsoever to make a *lathi* charge. The entire incident lasted only a few minutes. Out of the total strength of 2,176 workers employed in the Depot not more than 50 had participated in this demonstration. On the 9th of April, at approximately 9 A.M. the Commandant of the Depot was informed that Shri S. M. Joshi, General Secretary of the All India Defence Employees Federation, who happened to be in Delhi on that day wanted to meet him. The Commandant immediately came to the gate and was informed by Mr. Joshi that the workers were intending to go on a token strike and he wanted to persuade them not to do so. The Commandant readily agreed to allow Shri S. M. Joshi to address the workers. Quite a large number of workers had already gone inside the Depot and on Mr. Joshi's persuasion the remaining ones also decided to resume work. Some of them, however, could not do so within the normal time, as according to the existing orders, the Depot gates are finally closed for the day at 9.50 A.M. I must confess here that if a little discretion had been exercised by the Depot officers by taking the liberty of relaxing the particular rule and keeping the gate open beyond the prescribed time the trouble might have ended then and there. Instructions have, however, been issued that the absence of the workers involved will be regularised by granting them leave for the day.

As regards 505 Command Workshop, a proposal was put up for consideration of the Works Committee on 5th April, 1954, that twelve annas per worker should be contributed from the profits of the Unit Canteen (which normally go to the Labour Welfare Fund) for the celebration of the FME

day on 1st May, 1954. Out of 6 or 7 members of the Works Committee, only one member has disagreed with the proposal. The money is to be utilised for expenditure on sports and refreshments to the workers. Government have no knowledge of any hunger-strike having taken place on 8th April, 1954, as alleged by the hon. Member.

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COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

PRESENTATION OF SECOND REPORT

Shri Atlekar (North Satara): I beg to present the Second Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from sittings of the House

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FINANCE BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C.D. Deshmukh): I beg to \*move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1954-55, be taken into consideration."

So far as the imposition of income-tax and super-tax is concerned, there is no change from last year. Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to make certain amendments in the Indian Income-Tax Act. Of these, four amendments relate to the extension by two years, upto 1956, of the concessions which were to expire on the 31st March 1954. Pending the report of the Taxation Enquiry Commission, it was decided to continue these concessions for another two years. The concessions whose period has been extended, are:

- (i) the exemption of foreign profits chargeable on remittance only in the case of a resident person;
- (ii) the exemption for two years of income from property built before the 1st April, 1956;

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\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.