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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 23rd April, 1953.

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

3-6 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT ✓

STRIKE AT THE HINDUSTHAN SHIPYARD. ✓
VISAKAPATNAM

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion to discuss the situation arising out of the strike at the Hindusthan Shipyards, Visakapatnam, commencing on the 22nd April, involving more than 3600 workers as a protest against the summary discharge of 813 workers and the sympathetic support extended to them.

Before I come to any conclusion as to whether I should give my consent or as to whether the motion is admissible, I should like to be clear about his matter on facts. *Prima facie*, whatever sympathies we may have for the workers who are summarily dismissed, it is more or less a matter of administration and has to be corrected by representations to the administration. But I do not know the background of the whole thing. Also, while it is no doubt a matter of importance, I do not see how it is a matter of such public importance in the background of the all-India situation that we must now suspend

our other ordinary business and take up this adjournment motion. That is another point. There is the question of urgency also involved, but before I come to any conclusion, I should like to hear the hon. Member Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee as to what he has to say on facts. I should also like the Minister in charge to state the facts about the situation.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (Calcutta South-East): I have based my adjournment motion on a telegram which I received—and which I believe Government also have received—from Dr. Lanka Sundaram, a Member of this House, who is the President of the Hindusthan Shipyards Labour Union. That is the basis on which I have proceeded.

The first point which you have been good enough to raise is about the background. As the House is aware, a dispute has been pending for some time past regarding the discharge of 813 workers from this Shipyards which belongs to the Government of India. The claim which was put forward by the workers was that the whole matter should be gone into by an independent tribunal. Unfortunately, no legal notice has been served on these workers. If that had been done, then they could have immediately claimed either conciliation proceedings or arbitration proceedings. But they have been summarily dismissed. That is the information which has been conveyed in this telegram. As a result of this, a sympathetic strike has been declared by more than 3600 workers of the Shipyards itself, with the result that yesterday no work was done in the Shipyards.

As regards the emergency, this telegram says:

“This morning the council of registered Trade Unions, Vishakapatnam, representing harbour, Eastern Railway, Indian Navy, .

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

- Civil Employees. Naval Armament Depot, Posts and Telegraphs, R.M.S., Military Engineering Services, King George Hospital and Municipality Workers, who are under this Trade Union resolved in emergency meeting to stage public demonstration on Friday evening...

i.e. tomorrow evening—

"...through combined procession and march meeting to register their protest against illegal lockout of Shipyard Workers and they have communicated this decision by telegram to the Prime Minister of India and other authorities in New Delhi and in Madras".

- ✓ So, the emergency arises out of this, that unless something is done quickly—if possible, today,—there is a possibility of this strike spreading into other spheres which concern some vital, important and essential services directly under the control of the Government of India. We do not want that this ugly thing should develop, and we are anxious that some positive steps should be taken, if possible in the course of the day, so that an amicable settlement can be reached. The demand of the workers has been reiterated here. They want that these workers should not be dispensed with, and they are prepared to submit the whole case to adjudication by an independent tribunal. I do not wish to go into the merits of the case, but ✓ to us it seems that it is quite a justifiable demand and the Government of India should not precipitate a crisis in respect of works and institutions which vitally concern our defence, security and also economic interests. ✓

Lastly, if you feel that an adjournment motion is not necessary because it may interfere with the urgent legislative work in which we are engaged, I shall be perfectly satisfied if you, with the approval of Government, allot half an hour today at 12-45 P.M. so that we can discuss this matter in a spirit of understanding and try to come to a settlement, so that we may avert a crisis which may assume very serious proportions.

Shri Thanu Pillai (Tirunelveli): On a point of clarification, may I know whether it is a strike or a lock-out?

Mr. Speaker: It is a strike.

Shri Thanu Pillai: It was mentioned as a lock-out.

✓ Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: This was in respect of the 813 workers. The first sentence of the telegram I have received reads thus:

"3682 workers of the Hindustan Shipyard including....."

I need not repeat the names of the people: they are from all provinces—

".....commenced total peaceful strike this morning as a protest against summary discharge of 813 workers without customary notice of fourteen days which would have enabled Labour Union to initiate conciliation proceedings and arbitration proceedings. Shipyard completely deserted this morning."

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): Where is the question of lock-out here?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, there is no question of lock-out. It is a strike.

- ✓ The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): On behalf of the Production Minister, I may be allowed to make the following submission. There was a dispute as regards these 813 workers, and it is a matter for the Madras Government to appoint or not to appoint adjudication machinery. We have suggested to the Madras Government to appoint adjudication machinery, and they have appointed an adjudicator to go into the dispute. It is for the workers to place all their facts before the adjudicator and he will give an award which ✓ will be entirely binding on the parties.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to know whether Government are willing to have a half an hour discussion, because on the question of adjournment motion the case is practically given up by the hon. Member. He does not press it.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Not given up. I am in an accommodating spirit.

Mr. Speaker: I am putting it in a plain language and not in a diplomatic language.

منسٹر آف ایجوکیشن (مولانا)

آزاد)۔ شری گری کے اس بیان کے بعد

میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اب کوئی

ضرورت باقی نہیں رہتی۔

The Minister of Education and Natural Resources and Scientific research (Maulana Azad): I do not think there is any necessity for it after Mr. Giri's statement.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आध घंटे की चर्चा करने की जो बात चलायी गयी है, उस के बारे में तो गवर्नमेंट का वियू जानना है और उस के अनुसार इस को तय करना है।

Shri V. V. Giri: I submit, Sir, in view of the fact that an Adjudicator has already been appointed, if further information is required it is better that the Production Minister, who is in full possession of the facts, states them tomorrow. He will be present tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: So even for the half an hour discussion let us wait till tomorrow when the Production Minister will be here. I believe the hon. Member's point is gained by making a statement in this House as to why he wants an adjournment motion.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I can only make one submission on what the hon. Minister said. Technically he is correct that the initiative has to be taken by the Madras Government since it is situated in the State of Madras. But what brings it nearer to the Government of India is the fact that the Government of India is the employer, and if the Government of India agrees not to dismiss these eight hundred and odd people immediately but to keep them in service till the adjudication is completed, there will be no strike and there will be peaceful settlement. And that is a matter on which the Government of India will have to decide. If that decision is taken there will be no trouble at all.

Mr. Speaker: The little talk we had has already gone to achieve his object. The Government will bear that in mind and do whatever they like.

Shri K. K. Desai (Halar): May I know when this Adjudicator was appointed by the Madras Government?

Shri V. V. Giri: About three days ago.

Mr. Speaker: Then there does not seem to be any occasion now...

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Sir, the Prime Minister is here now and perhaps he can dispose of the matter more quickly and expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we need take more time on this.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Can we not have the discussion today? Tomorrow they have declared their intention to go on strike.

Mr. Speaker: I do not see as to how any discussion is going to further matters towards the end we have in view. The hon. Member has already invited the attention of the Government to the demands of labour and pressed upon the Government the urgency and seriousness of the matter. It is said that an Adjudicator has been appointed. Let us see what the hon. Minister of Production has to say tomorrow—if at all he wants to say anything. But now there does not seem to be any occasion for pursuing this.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): If before tomorrow evening a better understanding could be reached that would be better.

Mr. Speaker: For that it would be better if they have a discussion with the hon. Minister concerned outside the House and not in the House.

Shri Nambiar: That we have been continuing to have.

Mr. Speaker: That disposes of the adjournment motion.

INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Speaker: We now come to the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill. The general discussion will take place today and at the end of the day the motion will be put to the House as has been decided or recommended— which recommendation we should take as binding on us—by the Business Advisory Committee and the clause by clause reading will take place on the 25th and on the 27th. In all three days are fixed for this.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): Only one day for the general discussion?

Mr. Speaker: One day has been decided by the Business Advisory Committee on which all parties are represented. Let us have a convention...