

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 15th May, 1953.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-37 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy which says that "the recent strike ballot taken by eighteen thousand employees of Ordnance Depots in Kanpur, Jabalpur, Pulgaon, Panagar and Chheoki against the policy of retrenchment announced by the Government has produced a grave situation which will lead to far-reaching consequences".

Wherefrom does he get this information?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): May I submit.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No submissions. Wherefrom does he get this information? Is it authentic?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I have received a number of telegrams and I have also received information from the employees' organisations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it appear in any newspaper?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: No, Sir. But before.....

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Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me ask the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is a fact that certain notices have been issued to some personnel in these Ordnance Depots. The matter has been considered from a very long time past. Conferences have also taken place in Works Committees and with managers and others, because of this patent difficulty that there has been this surplus really for some years past. And we have tried in every way to avoid retrenchment. But it became quite impossible to keep on people who have absolutely no work to do. In fact they clutter up other work. So we were compelled to give notice to a number of people in the Ordnance Depots. It is our desire and our practice to enlarge our work in the Ordnance Factories so that they might supply civil needs also and we might avoid any retrenchment. But this particular matter deals with Depots, not with Factories. That might also be kept in mind. So notices have been issued. Even so the matter is being investigated as to how far any person can be kept and not retrenched. And even if they are retrenched, even then an attempt will continuously be made to take them back whenever an opportunity occurs. That is the position. I do not know that there is any abnormality about it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): So far as we are concerned we have been informed that 1,362 notices were served, they were to expire on 15th May, that is today, and alternative employment has been provided only to 150. Is the Prime Minister in a position to state if the position is likely to improve—whether more will have alternative employment and that sort of thing?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All I can say is that we make our utmost effort,

✓ and I believe that that effort succeeds; in what time I cannot say.

• **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether for the last three or four days over-time work is allowed in the Delhi Depot and, if so, what is the reason for this over-time work? If the Prime Minister says that there is surplus staff, where is the necessity for allowing over-time work?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know about what the hon. Member says in the last three or four days—I cannot say. It may be just to clear up loose strings.

✓ **Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This matter has been brought up in some form or another from time to time, namely retrenchment in Ordnance Depots. The hon. Minister Mr. Tyagi explained at length the other day that there is no intention to retrench except where absolutely necessary, alternative appointment is also sought to be provided and active steps are being taken, Ordnance Factories are also sought to be expanded so as to produce more even for civilian needs and thus avoid retrenchment as far as possible or allow absorption of the surplus personnel. And in view of the statement that the hon. the Prime Minister has made that every effort is being made to see that these people do not suffer, I do not think it is necessary for me to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received an application from Dr. Ch. V. Rama Rao for leave of absence. The letter says: "In view of the severe heat and my delicate health I request you to kindly grant me leave of absence from attending the session, from the 2nd April, 1953, to the end of the present session and oblige".

He has been ailing for some time. Is it the pleasure of the House that the permission be granted—although we are on the last day? Mere heat ought not to stand in the way of any hon. Member continuing to attend here! We shall see as far as possible that heat is avoided inside the House!

Shri Namblar (Mayuram): He is a T.B. patient.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to grant the permission?

Leave was granted.

STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Since the last occasion when this House discussed foreign affairs, much has happened in the international sphere and many important developments have taken place. No major problem has been solved, but it may be said that for the first time in several years, large numbers of people have hoped that solutions might be found. The "cold war" has somewhat toned down.

Many evidences of this new approach have come from the Soviet Union and, however some people might view them, they must be welcomed as helping in lessening the tension of the world. In China also there has been evident a desire for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

This House will remember that some months ago a Resolution regarding Korea was sponsored by India in the United Nations and was passed by the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority. That Resolution, as I stated in this House, was no mandate but an earnest approach to find a basis for a settlement. The President of the General Assembly of the U.N. communicated it in this spirit to the Chinese and the North Korean Governments. Unfortunately, both the Soviet and the Chinese Governments rejected that Resolution and our hopes of a settlement suffered a serious setback. Recently, however, new proposals were made by the Chinese Government in regard to Korea which opened the door again to a fresh approach to this problem which was, to some extent, in line with the Resolution passed by the U.N. Shortly afterwards, the Chinese Government put forward fresh proposals, referred to as the 8-point proposals, which were a very close approximation to the Indian Resolution passed by the General Assembly of the U.N. We welcomed these proposals because they seemed to afford a promising and solid basis for a solution of the immediate problem, which was in line with the accepted policy of the U.N. Many other powers also welcomed these proposals.

Two or three days ago, the United Nations Command in Korea put forward certain counter proposals. Any constructive approach to this problem is always to be welcomed. We were glad therefore that these attempts were being made to solve a problem