

[Shri Khandubhai Desai]

(iii) Salary to be paid during the period of closure of factories.

(iv) Grant of leave facilities, out-station allowance, night allowance and enhanced bonus.

There were no demands from the workers. The State Conciliation Officer tried to bring about a settlement but as he did not succeed, the Government of Travancore-Cochin referred the dispute to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. They also declared both the strike and lock-out illegal. Thereafter all factories started working from the 21st May, 1956 and since then, the situation is normal.

Shri Nambiar (Mayaaram): On a point of clarification, may I know whether any workers are on strike or any section of the workers in lock-out or a complete settlement has been reached after the declaration of the illegality of the strike?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: According to the information which we have received, the workers had resumed and the situation entirely normal. I have no information at my disposal whether any persons have been locked out.

ARREST AND RELEASE OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following letter dated the 26th May, 1956, from the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana:

"I have to inform you that Shri Saidullah Khan Razmi, a Member of the Parliament, was arrested by the Ludhiana Police at 6 P.M. on the 25th May, 1956, in cases F.I.R. No. 189 and No. 190, dated the 31st March, 1956, under section 9 P.S.S. Act and 506 I.P.C., Police Station City Ludhiana, and was released on bail at 7-30 P.M. the same day."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Shri Deshmukh.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I rise to move that the...

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Before the House proceeds to the next business, I request you that, in view of the fact that it is the penultimate day of the session and this is the only Bill to be taken up for the whole of today, the time-schedule for tomorrow may be fixed because we have got discussion on the working of the Preventive Detention Act, then we have got the Bengal exodus to be discussed and then the I.A.S. rules, and then the Bill that has come back amended by the Rajya Sabha—the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill. In view of the fact that a normal day is about eight hours and this is going to take eight hours or so, I would like you to fix up the schedule for tomorrow.

As has been the custom in such long sessions, we might have a night sitting tomorrow as we did once in the last Parliament and should have a dinner, because the session should end with a bang and not with a whimper. We should sit in between and come back to the House after dinner and carry on till 10 O'Clock, if that is possible. In any case, the time-schedule should be fixed.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I would like not a sleepy night but an active day. As such, we may sit from 8 O'Clock in the morning till 1 O'Clock and in the afternoon from 3 to 6 or 7 O'Clock.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I suggest we might sit from 10 to 6.30 or 7.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): What about the dinner?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: At 6-30 you want dinner?

Shri Kamath: High tea.

Mr. Speaker: For tomorrow, the work as it stands at present is as follows: Preventive Detention Bill discussion—5 hours; discussion on the exodus of Hindus from East Pakistan—2 hours; discussion of the rules relating to emergency recruitment of I.A.S.—1 hour. Total 8 hours. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill may take 15 minutes or so. We will assume half an hour at the most.

Shri Kamath : What about the half-an-hour discussion ?

Mr. Speaker : That will be postponed to next session. We cannot go on overworking.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy : May I make a submission ?

Mr. Speaker : Let us meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow and then carry on till 6 or 6-30. That is enough. We will have 8 or 8½ hours. Let us not overload ourselves by dinner.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam) : The discussion which has been raised by me regarding Employees Provident Fund Act, 1952, will be taken up tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker : Let us take it up next session.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : No, no. It was postponed to tomorrow from the 23rd.

Shri Kamath : While we are on the subject, may I make a request to you ? You were good enough to assure us the other day that the Second Five Year Plan committees would not meet when the House is sitting. Tomorrow is an important day. Many of us will have to attend the House throughout. Tomorrow the Planning Committee B is to meet, but many of us will not be able to attend it. I request you to see that this meeting is not held.

Mr. Speaker : Representation must be made to the Chairman. He will consider this matter.

We are meeting tomorrow at 10 O' Clock in the morning and will carry on till 6 or 6-30 P.M. as the case may be.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : Half-an-hour discussion.

Mr. Speaker : Half an-hour discussion till 7 O' Clock.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha : I suggest that time for the different stages of the Constitution (Tenth Amendment) Bill may be allotted so that the Members may know when the voting will take place on the three stages.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members on this side along with the hon. Minister of

Parliamentary Affairs will sit together and settle as to what time may be allotted for the several stages of the Bill. As soon as the hon. Finance Minister concludes his remarks on the first stage, I shall announce it to the House so that we may stick to the programme.

CONSTITUTION (TENTH AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The Joint Committee has recommended that the Bill as introduced in the Lok Sabha be passed. This conclusion has emerged after a great deal of discussion of all points of view. There are Minutes of Dissent and therefore it is needless to say that there was not complete unanimity in the committee. Particularly, there was a strong volume of opinion in the Joint Committee which was of the view that it would have been very much satisfactory, had the Central Government been able to retain the power to intervene, as it can today, in respect of imposition of sales tax on goods essential to the life of the community, under the Essential Goods Act of 1952, that is to say in regard to the provisions of the Essential Goods Act of 1952 and particularly in respect of what were described as necessities of life. This point has been urged with varying degrees of emphasis by several Members in their notes and Minutes of Dissent. At this stage I consider it necessary to place before the House certain salient points for consideration.

I realise that hon. Members have been exercised as to the possibilities which this Bill opens up for the levy by the States of sales taxes at onerous rates on articles which figure largely in the domestic budget of the common man. This anxiety is readily understandable especially as the House regards itself rightly as the zealous guardian of the fortunes of the common man, and yet in spite of this sentiment, I would like the hon. Members to consider dispassionately what the present position is and how we could change it if in the circumstances a change is called for.