

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Saturday, 21st, July, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12-07 P.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

STRIKE NOTICE BY VISAKHAPATNAM HARBOUR AND PORT WORKERS UNION

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Dr. Lanka Sundaram and Shri A. K. Gopalan.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): There is a notice of general strike given to the Railway Ministry by the Visakhapatnam Harbour and Port Workers Union. The strike has to become effective on the 23rd, that is, day after tomorrow. In addition to this notice, a contingent strike notice has also been given to the same Ministry by the same union, involving in all twelve matters for adjudication. The strike notice says that if these demands are not conceded or are not referred to an industrial tribunal there shall be a strike. In other words, there is not a strike notice which is absolutely shutting the door for negotiation or settlement, they want an industrial tribunal to be appointed to adjudicate on these demands. I would not go into the details of the demand apart from stating that in the general category there are issues like unfair

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labour practices, unfair trade tests, increase of wages etc. The contingent notice points out the proposed transfer of the harbour and port from the Railways to the Transport Ministry. Since 1921 it was transferred from one authority to another—from the Bengal Nagpur Railway to the Commerce Ministry, from the Commerce Ministry to the Railway Ministry and now the proposal is to send it to the Transport Ministry. In this connection, I had talks with the Railway Minister as early as 12th December. As regards the contingent notice of strike, I want to tell the House—I am not the President of the Union—that he said that he would receive a deputation or send an officer for enquiry. I have been pursuing the correspondence in order to save this threatened disaster in such a vital installation as the Visakhapatnam Harbour which, you, Mr. Speaker, know, has got other installations like the shipyard, naval base, oil refinery and other important institutions. I do not want anything to be done to precipitate this condition on Monday morning and I have raised this matter to draw your attention and the attention of the Ministry to save the strike by referring it forthwith to the Industrial Tribunal as demanded in the strike notice.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Carnanore): In addition to the strike notice given by the workers at Visakhapatnam Harbour, I may also be allowed to point out the seriousness of the matter as far as other ports also are concerned. In yesterday's papers there is a report of an all-India organisation which says that they have given notice of strike in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and other places. As far as the Cochin Port is concerned, I myself, when I was there a month back, persuaded the workers

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

not to go on strike when they gave notice of a protest strike for one day. I asked them to go in for negotiations and I also wrote to the Railway Minister about the same. What I want to point out is that it is not only at Visakhapatnam but in all the other ports also they have given notice of a strike. It is therefore very necessary that this matter must be taken up seriously and the authorities should go into this question.

There is no machinery for negotiation as far as the Cochin Port is concerned. I know that when the Labour Conciliation Officer called both the parties, the labour union representatives went but the Administrator did not go there. So some other thing was taken up by the Officer saying that he could not attend to the conciliation.

When we had been discussing such questions in respect of other places, it had been said that the workers are resorting to violence and other things. Therefore, we want specially to bring it to the notice of the House and the Government that a very serious situation will arise if the Government does not take notice of the seriousness, not only as far as Visakhapatnam is concerned, but of the situation in general. When something happens at Visakhapatnam, the workers at other places may also follow suit and thus in a major industry like this a very serious situation may arise. So, the determination of the organisations to go on strike at other places must also be taken into consideration while considering this question relating to Visakhapatnam. That is what I want to point out.

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Ajagesan): Sir, I should like to have some time before I can make a full report on this. It is unfortunate that 23rd also happens to be a holiday. I shall be able to make a statement on the 24th.

Shri Namblar (Mayuram): Notice

has been given to the effect that the strike is to begin on the 23rd and therefore, a statement on the 24th will be too late.

Shri Ajagesan: It may be that I might be able to announce that the strike did not take place.

Dr. Lanka Suddaram: Sir, I could not hear what the hon. Deputy Minister said.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that he may be able to announce to the House that the strike has not taken place.

In view of the statement which the Minister has promised to make, this matter is put off till the 24th.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa): Sir, on behalf of Shri A. P. Jain, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1346, dated the 8th June, 1956, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act 1955. [Placed in Library. See No S-252/56.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS ACT

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1566, dated the 7th July, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. S-253/56.]

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1567, dated the 7th July, 1956, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. S-254/56.]