

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

namely, that it is only to exploit the situation for our party, I was forced to refer to it. Otherwise, I would not have made a mention of that.

As far as the nationalised industry is concerned, the Minister has said that some of the provisions are already there. I want to point out one thing. In Travancore-Cochin, this industry is nationalised. As regards the provision for overtime, the workers today are not working overtime. A certain Committee was appointed and that Committee gave a report according to which overtime allowance given to the workers was denied. So they say that they cannot work undertake overtime work. The provision that had been there is now denied. Not only that, the workers have given notice of a token strike for the 5th or 6th January. A few months ago, there was a strike.

One answer for these strikes that take place in the country, whether in this industry or that industry, is the existence of the party to which I belong in this country. But is it the only answer that can be given? Why is it that in spite of what that organisation has been doing to pacify the people, the workers do not agree?

As far as the nationalised industry is concerned, I want to inform the Labour Minister that some of the most important provisions which we have in view are not there in the State concerns. Some provisions are, of course, there, but the most important provisions are not there. So there is also that difficulty.

The Minister has promised to look into it. So there is no use in putting this motion to vote and seeing that it is not carried. That would not benefit the cause of the workers. It is better that we wait for another six months. If by then Government do not bring forward the promised legislation, we can bring forward the same Bill.

I do not want to go into details, but I say this much that even after hearing the speech of the Labour Minister, I am not convinced that it was because of lack of time that he was not able to bring forward a Bill. Several Bills have been brought forward. Even yesterday and the day before, we had important Bills before us conferring arbitrary powers on Government as far as taxation is concerned. So if the Government really wanted to bring forward such a Bill, there would be nothing standing in the way. That is a fact which we can all understand.

Mr. Chairman: He said that the States had not sent in their opinions.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: If the Government want that the States should do something, I do not think it will be difficult for them to get it done; I do not think it will be difficult for them to get an answer from the States this way or that way. Anyway, I only say that I am not convinced that there was not enough time to bring forward this legislation. If the Government wanted, they could have brought in a Bill before the end of this session. Anyway, I do not press my motion. I again hope that all the clauses in this Bill as well as the principle of the Bill will be accepted by the Labour Minister.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member seek the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: Yes.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

RULES COMMITTEE
SEVENTH REPORT

Shri Baghavachari (Penukonda): I beg to lay on the Table of the House, under sub-rule (2) of rule 306 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business the Seventh Report of the Rules Committee.