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LOK SABHA

Friday, 25th May, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-30 A.M.

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

LOCK-OUT IN CASHEW-NUT FACTORIES

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore) :
Under Rule 216, I beg to call the
attention of the Minister of Labour to
the following matter of urgent public
importance and I request that he may
make a statement thereon :

“Lock-out in cashew-nut factories.”

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : Under section 2(a) (ii) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the responsibility for settlement of disputes in cashew-nut factories in Travancore rests with the Government of Travancore-Cochin. We have no information in regard to the alleged lock-out or strike in the cashew-nut factories. The Government of Travancore-Cochin has been requested to furnish a full report in the matter. The question of making a further statement on the subject will be considered after receiving a request from the Government of Travancore-Cochin.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram) : May I seek a clarification as to how much time it will take to get this report and to settle the issue ?

Shri Abid Ali : We will take no time after the receipt of the report. As soon as it is received, the statement will be made here.

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Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil) : The hon. Deputy Minister says that in view of a particular section of the Industrial Disputes Act, it is a matter for the Travancore-Cochin Government to deal with. Then, what is the remedy which we have here when that Government cannot be made to act as we would like to because the Assembly is not working there ? Is it not our right . . .

Mr. Speaker : Leave that portion alone. The hon. Minister has called for information from the Travancore-Cochin Government, and as soon as it is received it will be placed on the Table of the House or will be circulated. May I say that if perchance the information is not received before Parliament closes, copies may be circulated to hon. Members ?

Shri V. P. Nayar : It is a very important thing.

Shri A. K. Gopalan : The notice was given on 21-5-1956. According to my information, 20,000 workers are involved in this lock-out. May I know why even after four days the hon. Minister has not been able to get the information, especially when that State is now under Parliament's jurisdiction ?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai) : Immediately on receiving this notice, we communicated with the Travancore-Cochin Government, and as you know, the cashew-nut factories are spread all over Travancore-Cochin. We have asked the Travancore-Cochin Government to supply us the information as early as possible so as to make up our mind to make a statement on the floor of the House. As you, Sir, rightly suggested, if perchance we do not get the information earlier, I undertake that I will circulate it.

Mr. Speaker : To all Members from Travancore-Cochin.

Shri V. P. Nayar : That will not solve this problem. The problem is very acute and several thousands of workers are thrown out of employment. There

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

should be no reason by which the Government can say, especially at this time, that because the Travancore-Cochin Government has to collect the information from factories dispersed in various places, it is not possible. We want to know whether it would be possible for the hon. Minister to give us definite information about this lock-out before we disperse at the end of the session. The House must be taken into confidence.

Shri Khandubhai Desai : After we get the information, whatever the Government of India is able to do it will do in addition to what is given in the report. Whatever, in the circumstances, is possible we will do in the matter and settle the question.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon cum Mavelikkara) : The cashew-nut factories are only in two taluks in Central Travancore.

Mr. Speaker : I will suggest to the hon. Minister that he may try to communicate with the Government of Travancore-Cochin and try to get the information before Parliament disperses. He will make every effort.

Shri Khandubhai Desai : Yes.

Shri Abid Ali : Even if the Assembly in Travancore-Cochin was meeting, the Government there would have taken some time to obtain information from the districts. They could not have made a statement off-hand.

Mr. Speaker : In other words, every effort would be made to collect the information before Parliament closes.

RESOLUTION RE SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Mr. Speaker : The House will now take up further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on the 23rd May, 1956 :

"This House records its general approval of the principles, objectives and programmes of development contained in the Second Five Year Plan as prepared by the Planning Commission."

The discussion will be both on this Resolution and the amendments.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad) : Will you kindly permit me to remind you that today is Friday and it is past Question

Hour. According to the convention which we have recently established, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is now expected to make a statement about the order of Government business next week. He is not even present in the House. He was here five minutes ago. He has vanished.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam) : This is rather unfortunate.

Mr. Speaker : We will get along. In the meanwhile...

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao : He comes in between and makes a statement. That is what he did before.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members after lunch will meet again at 3 or 3-30. If the House is full, I will ask him to make a statement.

Shri Kamath : I request that it may be made in your presence.

Mr. Speaker : Shri A. K. Gopalan.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd (Kurnool) : We have got amendments.

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Members will kindly send to the Table Office the numbers of the amendments. I will go through them, and if they are in order, I will admit them.

Shri A. P. Gopalan (Cannanore) : We are discussing the Second Five Year Plan, mainly its principles and approach.

Mr. Speaker : Leaders of various groups will take half an hour, except in particular cases where I will try to extend it by 15 minutes more. Others will take from 15 to 20 minutes.

Shri A. K. Gopalan : A year ago the plan-frame was published. It contained several guiding principles with special emphasis on basic and heavy industries and the public sector. The monopoly elements of the private sector after the publication of the plan-frame went all out to denounce and scuttle the plan-frame. They were against the expansion of the public sector and development of heavy and machine-building industries, but the enlightened public, with all the weaknesses of the Plan, supported these proposals especially the proposal that the basic industries as well as the machine-building industries must be