

[Shri A. K. Gopalan]

people took it into their heads to have some kind of action. This had been discussed before. Even some six or seven months back, the Class III employees had given notice of some action; and, afterwards, on the promise of the Government they stopped going on strike, or something like that. Now, they have given this notice to Government. That is why I say it is not a matter which arises one fine morning. It is a question that has been there for months together and now they are going to have some kind of action.

**Mr. Speaker:** Notice of strike, is it?

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Not to receive pay; the next step may be strike etc.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I make a submission before the Minister speaks?

**Mr. Speaker:** What is it?

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The decision not to draw the salary is an expression of the hardship experienced by them. They have made several representations. Now, the prices of foodgrains have increased considerably and the Central Pay Commission's recommendation regarding dearness allowance has not been implemented fully, because the Central Pay Commission said that there should be Rs. 5/- increase in the dearness allowance for every 20 point increase. Now, this increase in cost of living has gone much more than what it was and we were hoping that the prices will come down, as mentioned by the Food Minister, after harvest comes in. The new harvest has come in and yet it is 25 or 30 per cent. more than the price prevailing during the corresponding period of last year when the harvest came in. The real wages of the workers and employees are nearly half of what they were drawing in 1939. If you are pleased to admit this, we will be able to place our figures properly and then the House can come to a decision on that.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):** I am really surprised that any notice of adjournment motion should have been given regarding these matters, where Government is interested more than anybody else in meeting the legitimate wishes of its employees. It has always been anxious to do the utmost that it can. When other friends express their solicitude for the employees, I do not grudge it. I can only hope that when the time for meeting additional expenditure which any such increase would entail comes, then, there will be no objection from any quarter about the taxes and about other measures that may have to be taken.

So far as this particular motion is concerned, I am not aware of any such threat. But, if there is any such threat, it will not help anybody; it may hamper the cause which people may otherwise wish to help. I do not think that any such motion can be in order. This is the last day of the session. I got it just when I was entering the hall. Otherwise, if Parliament had been continuing and the elections had been approaching nearer, perhaps, spates of adjournment motions would have followed every day. I am glad that it is the last day. While I am prepared to admit that the motion has been made only out of sympathy for these people, I hope they will understand that Government's sympathy is greater and Government alone can give concrete shape to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** In view of the statement of the hon. Minister and as this is a matter which has to be decided, as the Minister accepts, between the Government on the one side and the employees on the other, I do not think I am called upon to admit this motion. No useful purpose will be served by discussing these matters here. I therefore disallow it.

#### CLOSURE OF CASHEW NUT FACTORIES IN KERALA

**Mr. Speaker:** There is another adjournment motion given notice of by Shri Gopalan regarding the—

"serious situation arising out of the closure of Cashewnut factories in Kerala and starting of satyagraha by Cashewnut workers from the 19th December, 1956, in front of the Kerala Government Secretariat, Trivandrum."

Has it been reported anywhere?

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Yes, Sir, it is reported in the papers. I have also got information from the workers there that on the 19th they have started satyagraha. I have also to say that on the 1st the factories had been closed. It had been brought to the notice of the House and the Home Minister that the employers were going to close the factories as a result of which about 50,000 workers, employed in 130 factories would be thrown out of employment. The factories have closed on the 1st December and they have started satyagraha from the 19th December. It will not only affect these factories but there are other allied factories also and the trouble may spread to other industries also. This issue of 50,000 workers being unemployed and starting satyagraha is an issue which, I think, is urgent and of public importance as there is no State Assembly there which can discuss this question and take some action. I hope that you will consider this at least as a matter of urgent public importance.

**Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil):** May I submit, Sir.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Before admission, we hear only one person.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** I again do not know how this motion can be admitted. The notice was given at 10.42 while I was on my way to the hall. It was stated by Shri Gopalan that these factories were closed on the 1st December. We have had several discussions in this House on Kerala since then and this question was not raised by anyone.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** It was raised.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** If it was raised, then, it has already been discussed; if it was not raised, then it cannot be done now.

I am coming to the second thing. This motion is being made because workers have started satyagraha. It is by way of protest against satyagraha. It is not said that anyone has been arrested or punished, but they have gone on satyagraha. I agree with them that it is not a legitimate method of protest, and they should not have gone on satyagraha. How is the Government to blame for their going on satyagraha? I do not know. If anyone on the other side says that the responsibility is theirs, I do not dispute then, but it is not ours.

So far as the facts go, as far as I know—I am speaking offhand—in response to the persistent demands of labour and labour leaders, the cashewnut industry in Kerala was declared as a non-seasonal industry, with the result that the emoluments and the wage bill went up greatly. In consequence of this high cost of labour which the industry had accordingly to incur, several factories closed, and they could not meet the cost. Suggestions were made for reconsidering that decision, but the labour unions or those interested in labour did not agree. The matter is one in which we were interested. We do not want the people to be unemployed. We do not want the industry to suffer. But I do not know if we can be said to be responsible for this.

So far as the fact goes, I am not aware of the satyagraha and I have received no information. But I know this that efforts are being made to bring about a settlement between labour and the managers of the factories. We are extremely anxious that the question should be settled and we would like to give whatever assistance we can. But I hope no encouragement will be given to satyagraha or to similar forms by anyone. As a protest against satyagraha I have no objection, to this, but that cannot be a just ground for admitting a motion for adjournment.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I submit a few words? The hon. Minister is not correct.....

**Mr. Speaker:** The facts are that Shri Gopalan himself admits that in this matter the closure of these factories took place as early as 1st December. Now all the crisis which made this an urgent matter of public importance is the satyagraha started by those people. The hon. Minister has said that in view of the notification declaring this to be a non-seasonal industry, the wages have risen and therefore those people have closed the factories. Is it alleged that any of these cashewnut factories belonged to Government? No.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** That is exactly the point.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is private property and those people have closed the factories.

**Shri Punnoose (Alleppey):** On a point of order, Sir. When you made that statement from the Chair, I think it affects the fortunes of lakhs of people, and no statements are to be made Sir, which will go adversely against the interests of the workers. These statements made here are going adversely against the interests of the workers.

**Mr. Speaker:** But I am entitled to make some statement which is correct. I must give my reasons for not admitting this motion. Is it alleged that these are Government factories? No. They are private factories.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** Government gave an assurance.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not going to allow a cross-examination now. These are private factories, and not Government factories where Government is responsible directly.

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** May I explain the position? They are not Government factories, but the factories were closed because a decision was taken by the Government that it is a non-seasonal industry, and the Government was not able to see that as far as the employers are concerned, it is implemented.

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** If Shri Gopalan agrees that these factories should be declared as seasonal factories, I would accept his advice. That is the answer. There is no question. Government took that decision thinking that it was correct, but I am prepared to reverse that decision. Do you or do you not agree?

**Shri A. K. Gopalan:** It is not the workers but it is the employers that do not implement the decision of the Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Punnoose wants me to disallow this motion and I disallow this motion.

**Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara-Reserved—Sch. Castes):** I want to raise another point.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I definitely told Shri Velayudhan when he came to me with an adjournment motion that I will not allow him to raise it. I have disallowed it.

**Shri Velayudhan:** But it is a very important matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will proceed with the next item of business.

#### PAPERS LAID ON TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1955-56 AND AUDIT REPORT THEREON.

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** On behalf of Shri Nanda, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948, a copy of the Annual Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1955-56 and Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. S-608/56.]

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS OF DEFENCE SERVICES AND AUDIT REPORT

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** On behalf of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, I beg to lay on the Table, under article 151(1) of the Constitution, a copy of each of the Appropriation Accounts of the De-