

Statement

present the First Report of the Committee on Petitions.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF FACTORIES ACT
AND OTHER LABOUR LAWS IN THE CERAMIC
INDUSTRY IN DELHI.**

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Sir, under rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The high incidence of silicosis and tuberculosis among workers in the Pottery and Ceramic Industry in Delhi State as disclosed by the Report of the Chief Adviser of factories and action taken by Government to implement the Factories Act and other Labour laws in the Delhi State."

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): As the statement is a long one, shall I lay it on the Table?

Mr. Speaker: He can give a summary and lay it on the Table.

Shri Abid Ali: It has been found that this process is hazardous and, therefore, it was considered desirable to have information on the factual condition of the worker in the industry and its effects on the health of the workers. Of the 41 factories employing about 8900 workers in the six States where the survey was conducted, 12 factories employing about 920 workers (including two factories in Delhi) were selected for study. Statistics has been taken and the State Governments have been informed. Further details have been mentioned in the statement.

Sir, I beg to lay a statement on the incidence of silicosis and tuberculosis among workers in the Pottery and Ceramic Industry in Delhi.

It is now well recognised, as a result of investigations carried out in other countries, that a serious hazard of silicosis is associated with the pottery industry, and unless suitable control measures are taken, conditions in the industry could be detrimental to the health of the workers. Under the circumstances, it was considered desirable to have information on the factual conditions of work in the industry and their effects on the health of workers. With this end in view, an industrial hygiene investigation was carried out by the organisation of the Chief Adviser Factories in the pottery and ceramic industry and a report on the survey was published in June, 1957.

Of the 41 factories employing about 8900 workers in the 6 States where the survey was conducted, 12 factories employing about 920 workers (including 2 factories in Delhi) were selected for study. Medical examinations of a large number of workers employed who were exposed over a period of time to the ill effects of dusts were carried out. The Radiological studies of workers showed incidence of silicosis—15·7 per cent workers had x-ray evidence of silicosis and about 60 per cent of these showed evidence of tuberculosis. Pulmonary tuberculosis was detected in 6·3 per cent workers.

A number of recommendations for the control of dust hazards through such arrangements as separation of dusty and non-dusty processes, wet grinding, mechanical exhaust arrangements; provision of personal protective equipment; periodical medical examination of workers and methods of improvement of general hygiene of workplaces have been made in the report.

It is mainly for the industry to take action to given effect to the recommendations made in the report. Copies of the Report have been forwarded to all the State Governments and Union Administrations with the request that

the recommendations for safeguarding the health of the workers in the industry might be brought to the notice of the Factory Inspection Services for necessary action.

Under Section 87 of the Factories Act, 1948, the State Governments have the power to make rules applicable to any factory or class of factories where, in the opinion of the State Government, any operation is carried on which exposes any persons employed in it to any serious risks of bodily injury, poisoning or disease. (The Chief Commissioner, Delhi has been given the powers of a State Government for the administration of the Act.) With a view to enable the Factory Inspectorates to enforce the recommendations made in the report, the Chief Adviser, Factories has framed draft Model Rules under the Factories Act in respect of the Industry. These are under discussion with State Chief Inspectors of Factories and after finalisation will be forwarded to the State Governments for adoption and enforcement.

The House will appreciate that the Government on their own initiative had the survey carried out in the pottery and ceramic industry with a view to having factual information on the conditions of work in the industry and their effects on the health of workers. They are now seized of the problem and are taking the measures necessary to safeguard the health of the workers in the industry. The action being taken would cover the workers in the factories in Delhi as well.

Mr. Speaker: As a large number of items have been disposed of on the 9th September, 1957 before the scheduled time, I have decided that the sitting of the House fixed earlier for the 14th September, 1957 may now be cancelled.

In view of this the Private Members' Business which had earlier been fixed up for the 14th September, 1957

will now be taken up on the 12th September, 1957.

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty (Basirhat): May I make a submission? I realise that the arrangement has been put out of gear because certain Bills had been passed quicker than expected. I request you to see that the order of business is not turned round. The other day, yesterday, there was a certain order of business. Now, this morning it is changed. Last evening, we were told that certain new matters will come before this House in a particular order. That order has again been revised. I would request the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs at least to keep to the order even when we had to take additional Bills. Otherwise, it is very difficult for smaller parties function where we have to distribute our work.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): That happens in the nature of things. Yesterday, there was a collapse of two Bills. So, others have to come up. I would look into it and see whether the order announced can be followed.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): We did not hear what he said.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister is considering this matter and as far as possible the order will be maintained.

श्री गणपति राम (जीनपुर-रक्षित-
प्रमुखित जातियां) : अध्यक्ष महोदय,
जैसा कि मैं ने कल थिइयूल्ड कास्ट्स कमिश्नर
की रिपोर्ट पर बहस के बारे में कहा था,
मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली
कापेरेशन बिल का जो समय बच गया है,
अगर वह उस रिपोर्ट के लिये दे दिया जाय,
तो यह बहुत अच्छा हो और १९५५-५६
की रिपोर्ट डिस्कस कर ली जाय ।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already said that the other report has not yet been received. Both these reports will be considered together. The hon. Member put a question