

Radio Station at Patiala

577. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have under consideration a proposal to construct a building to house the Radio Station at Patiala; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government of India have taken so far in this connection?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It is not considered necessary to have a Radio Station at Patiala in view of the merger of PEPSU and Punjab. The area will be served by the Station at Jullundur.

Imported Consumer Goods

578. { Shri V P Nayar:
Shri Wodeyar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subsequent to the introduction of import restrictions and ban on certain consumer goods, the prices of such goods as were already held in stock in India have gone up particularly in the case of razor blades; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government, if any, to check the unwarranted increase in prices of stocks already held in the country?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The prices of some of the imported consumer goods including razor blades which had initially shown tendency to rise are now by and large steady.

(b) Prices are constantly kept under review with a view to taking such remedial or corrective measures as are possible. But it is not possible to devise a special policy for the stocks "already held in the country".

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALLEGED FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO END THE CRITICAL LABOUR SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE MONOPOLY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: I have received a notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Shibban Lal Saksena regarding the failure of the Government of India to end the critical labour situation resulting from the monopoly for the manufacture of matches in India and so on. All the rest is argumentative. The idea is the failure of the Government of India to end the critical labour situation.

It is primarily a State subject. A number of people have started a hunger strike. I do not know how it is to be brought here.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Maharajanji):
Sir, labour is a concurrent subject.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):
Labour is a concurrent subject.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, have we any primary jurisdiction in the matter? What steps have the State Government taken? Is our jurisdiction overriding the jurisdiction of the State? Is the State inactive?

There was a calling attention notice on the same subject by Shri Tangamani and Shri Banerjee, and it was given on the 12th November and I had disallowed it. A short notice question on the same subject has also been received. I am considering whether when it is a concurrent subject and it is not the primary concern of the Union Government, an adjournment motion will be relevant. If it is not hon. Members may elicit information through the short notice question and we shall see if further discussion on the matter is necessary.

Shri S. L. Saksena: It is the monopoly that has been given to the Swedish firm that has been responsible. They have misbehaved and so it is the function of the Government of India to intervene.

Mr. Speaker: Hunger-strike has been going on for the past 28 days.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): In addition to the subject being labour, this is a factory run by the WIMCO and at Bareilly there are 1,200 workers. In addition, the daily production is 300 cases and the Central Government will lose by way of excise duty to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh. This is a matter of great importance.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): These are industrial relations concerning match industry which is entirely within the sphere of the State Government. Therefore, as you have rightly pointed out, this matter cannot be discussed here at this stage and in this form.

Mr. Speaker: It is not for the purpose of discussing this. Allowing it or not allowing it is a different matter. But I want to know whether the Central Government is taking any step in this matter or not.

Shri Abid Ali: We are interested; but so far as the steps to be taken are concerned, they are to be taken by the State Government and not by us.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, the Central Government have not moved.

Shri Abid Ali: They are in touch with the State Government; and the State Government have to take action and not the Central Government. It is not our responsibility.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow the adjournment motion. I have already disallowed the calling attention notice, I am allowing the short notice question. Now that the short notice question is being allowed, I will not allow the adjournment motion. I think I am not called upon to

give my consent to this adjournment motion.

ALLEGED FAILURE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH ADMINISTRATION TO REGULATE THE PLYING OF HIMACHAL PRADESH ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORT BUSES

Mr. Speaker: There is another adjournment motion tabled by Shri Braj Raj Singh regarding the failure of the Himachal Pradesh Administration to regulate the plying of the Himachal Pradesh Administration Transport buses. He says that in the rainy season a bus was allowed to run in the usual course and it unfortunately resulted in the death of 5 persons and injury to 14.

Thousands of buses run every day and there are accidents here and there.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Himachal Pradesh is a Union Territory.

Mr. Speaker: But the Administrator is there. Has the Government anything to say?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I am sorry that such an accident should have happened and the sympathies of all of us are with the victims. It is really unfortunate that such accidents should happen. As to what was actually the cause or why it happened, I have no special information. If you so direct, I will obtain it and make a statement later.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I want to raise this because 5 persons have been killed and 14 have been injured out of whom 3 have been seriously injured.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Moreover we hear that the roads in Himachal Pradesh are so very narrow that when the buses go one of the wheels is always out of the road.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that he will make enquiries regarding this matter. He has not got all the information immediately. The hon. Member who has tabled the motion says that on the 20th when the