

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

Sadar Bazar gutting about 40 shops and partially destroying another 20 shops causing an estimated damage of Rs. 25 lakhs to the shopkeepers in that area and practically ruining their business."

I would not have brought it up for consideration, but because the damage was considerable, I thought I might get the fact from the hon. Minister if he is in a position to give them.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Sir, it is alleged that they had repeatedly written to the Delhi Electricity Board that fires had been occurring there since long and that short circuiting was taking place. That this accident should have happened in these circumstances cannot be imagined. I would urge drastic steps to be taken...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has given notice and I have to give my decision so far as admissibility is concerned. He is now going into the merits of the case. Let us hear if the hon. Minister has got anything to say.

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, we are collecting the information and as soon as possible I shall place it before the House. It appears that the accident was perhaps not because of short circuit—it is subject to further check—in the main distribution system because the switch in the Lahori Gate system from which power is supplied did not trip off. Otherwise, when there is a short circuit in the main distribution line, the switch would trip off. That is the information available with me at present. We are waiting for the enquiry into the matter.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It may be held over till 4 o'clock.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of its being kept pending. I only wanted the facts. From the

facts that are available at present, it cannot be presumed that there was failure on the part of somebody for which the Government can be held responsible. It is not known as to when that statement would be coming up. Then the hon. Member has got various ways of pursuing the matter if he wants to. So, I do not think that I could give my consent to this. So, I refuse consent.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON PLANTATIONS

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Summary of Proceedings of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held in Shillong in January, 1958. [Placed in Library. [See No. LT-810/58]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

SECOND REPORT

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report of the Estimates Committee (Second Lok Sabha) on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Estimates Committee (First Lok Sabha).

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SITUATION IN HINDUSTAN AIRCRAFT LTD.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (Coimbatore): Sir, under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The lock-out situation in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory, Ltd., Bangalore".

Sir, may I make one point?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The notice is there. Let us have the statement. Only a statement has been called for.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: The wording has been changed. We had given notice in a different form. We want to know whether the statement would cover other points raised in the notice that we have given, such as the cause of suspension.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): I am glad to have this opportunity of informing the House that there is at present no lock-out situation in the Hindustan Aircraft (Private) Limited, Bangalore. A lock-out existed for a few days. It had to be declared by the management on the 26th of February last because of the situation then prevailing.

I would like to inform the House that this lock-out, at any of its stages, was not declared on account of, or in relation, to any labour dispute between the management and the workers, but because of certain acts of violence by some workers, against other workers, and some damage to government property had occurred and greater violence and damage appeared possible or imminent.

The management, therefore, as a measure of essential precaution and the safety of the workers themselves, and of valuable and vital government property, considered it necessary to close the factory until a calmer situation emerged.

The House will be pleased to know that as from the 4th of March, this lock-out was progressively lifted and the entire factory in all departments was open by the eleventh of March. The workers have returned. On the 19th of March, about 9000 workers out of a gross total of just over 10,000 had resumed work. Government hope that in the new situation and the

resumption of normal work, no further acts of violence or damage to Government property will take place and looks forward to the co-operation of all concerned.

I would like to take this opportunity of stating that all legitimate grievances of the workers will receive the attention of the management and of Government and will be sought to be resolved by discussion and negotiation. There will be no victimisation and no discrimination. No action will be taken against any one for Trade Union activities which the Government have always recognised as legitimate and indeed purposeful. Matters of law and order in the State are however issues concerning the Government of Mysore.

There have been certain matters of concern to the workers pending, some of which are before the Labour Tribunal. The management will at all times be willing subject to any established procedure, to settle them and resolve problems of concern to the workers by discussion and negotiation. The management has the support of the Government in pursuing all such measures of negotiation and settlement.

I feel sure that the workers of the Hindustan Aircraft Factory who are engaged in an undertaking that is not only national, but primarily and in a large measure for defence purposes, will respond readily to the needs of production and help to create and maintain good relations among themselves and also with the management, who are also employees of the Government. I would like to assure them once again that the Government and the Management will seek to meet their reasonable demands and remove their legitimate grievances.

I would also like to inform the House that I myself hope to visit the factory at not too distant a date.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasargod): Sir, I want to know one thing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As the hon. Member is aware, no questions are allowed.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I am not putting any question. I want a clarification on some facts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whether any question is put or it is asked by way of clarification, the purpose is the same. What is the clarification that he wants?

Shri A. K. Gopalan: I want to know whether there had been more than 200 suspensions. Orders had been passed against workers. Had they been suspended?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has said that there would be no victimisation.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: That is why I ask this question. Suspension orders had been given.

Shri Krishna Menon: I have no objection to clarify. There are no suspensions with respect to trade union activity. There have been breaches of the rules of the factory or breaking up of things. It is only a normal practice that we do not ask for more trouble by allowing them to break them up.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that in accordance with the order of discussion and voting of Demands for Grants announced by me on 12th March, 1958, and the allocation of time for them as approved by the House, business for the week commencing 24th March will consist of discussion and voting of Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministries of—

Health, Irrigation and Power,
Transport and Communications,
and Works, Housing and Supply.

GENERAL BUDGET—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will not resume further discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research. Out of five hours allotted for this 2 hours and 7 minutes now remain. How much time would the hon. Minister like to take for reply? Is the Deputy Minister intervening?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimall): I expect Dr. Das to speak. I will need at least 45 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Would 15 minutes be sufficient for the Deputy Minister?

The Deputy Minister of Education (Shri M. M. Das): I need a little more, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: "Little more" is very vague. How much time exactly does he want?

Shri M. M. Das: I want at least half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That means 1½ hours for both of them.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Out of 5 hours, it would be too much for the Ministers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would look into that. (*Interruptions.*) When once a decision is taken by the House, it should ordinarily be adhered to.

Shri Barrow (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): The House can be asked to reconsider the position in the light of these circumstances.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not on every point. Now Shri Patabhi Raman may continue his speech.