

LOK SABHA DEBATES

First Day of the Fourth Session of the Second Lok Sabha

Vol. XI]

[No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, 10th February, 1958

The Lok Sabha met at seventeen minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

DEATH OF SHRI R. K. SIDHVA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri R. K. Sidhva, who passed away in Bombay on the 28th December, 1957, at the age of 75 after a short illness.

Shri Sidhva was a Member of the Constituent Assembly of India and the Provisional Parliament. He was also Union Minister of State for Home Affairs in 1951-52.

I am sure the House will join with me in conveying our condolences to the family of Shri Sidhva.

The House may stand in silence for a minute to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for one minute.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

STRIKE BY WORKERS OF DELHI STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of several adjournment motions for this day. One situation arising out of strike by workers of Delhi State Electricity Board since 7th February 1958. This was by Shri Tangamani and Shri Panigrahi. Another by Shri Hem Barua relating to the

2
same matter. Situation arising out of the strike resorted to by the workers of the State Electricity Board, Delhi, due to the failure of the authorities of the Board to accord recognition of the workers' Union and to re-instate in work Lakshmi Narain, a dismissed employee of the Board. I will certainly not allow an adjournment motion to be brought here and I would have rejected it straightaway if it were only a case of a dismissed employee. We are not sitting in judgment nor can we dispose of a case relating to a dismissed employee here. If so, we will have to get along with 400 million employees here.

As regards the strike in question, I would like to know what the present situation is.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): The point is this. The strike notice was given and the period ended on the 7th. Since the 7th, more than 1000 workers are on strike. My purpose in giving the strike notice was .

Mr. Speaker: Adjournment motion.

Shri Tangamani: adjournment motion was, if the strike is allowed to spread, it is likely to affect the city also. It is not only a question of re-instatement of the employee. There is also the question of recognition of the Union and reduction in grades of the supervisory staff also. Many workers are also on hunger strike. In view of its importance, I thought, unless some negotiations started and the matter is settled, it may develop into a strike which will affect the power house also. So far, it has not affected the power

[Shri Tangamani]

house. If the power house is affected, it may considerably deteriorate and dislocate the services also.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Mr. Speaker, there is no ground for such an adjournment motion. I will, with your permission.....

Mr. Speaker: What is the present situation?

Shri S. K. Patil: The present situation is that out of 3200 employees, somewhere about 400 are on strike. Supply continues to be given. We do not expect any danger whatsoever. The strike has been declared illegal. Apart from many other reasons, the main reason, as you ruled it out now, is the re-instatement of a particular employee. Another, of which mention has been made, is the recognition of a Union. There have been several unions and under our own statute, there are certain conditions which have got to be fulfilled when a union has to be recognised. When these processes were under way, the workers took the law into their own hands. When the strike is withdrawn and the normal conditions are restored, there will be time enough to have these processes continued again, so that it will be seen whether the union which is just complaining in the matter does get recognition or not. Therefore, I see no reason why this matter should be brought before the House in the form of an adjournment motion. I oppose this adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has made a statement. So far as an individual is concerned, I have already said that that could not form the subject matter of any adjournment motion here. Regarding the other question, recognition or non-recognition of a union, not only with respect to workers who are engaged in the production and supply of electricity, but again and again this matter comes up in some form or other regarding recognitions of trade unions amongst the various Railways. The Government is adopting a particular policy. There

are ample opportunities before the House to urge on the Government to revise its policy if so desired. Individual application of a particular Union cannot be the subject matter of an adjournment motion here. I am not called upon to give my consent to either the one or the other adjournment motion. They are rejected.

PROPOSED STRIKE BY DELHI TEACHERS

Mr. Speaker: There is an adjournment motion: Grave situation arising out of the impending strike of 15000 teachers. I am not allowing it for the reason that I have given permission to the hon. Minister to make a statement regarding this. It will come up. Therefore, permission is not granted for moving this adjournment motion.

PROPOSED NON-CO-OPERATION BY L.I.C EMPLOYEES

Mr. Speaker: Explosive situation consequent on the proposed non-co-operation by L.I.C. employees—let them put into action—explosive situation consequent upon the proposal of somebody over the question of the categorisation scheme and the non-fulfilment by the Government of the demand for an Inquiry Committee to report on the working. . .

I wonder whether this can form the subject matter of an adjournment motion. There are always employees unless the Government is called upon to give up the role of an employer altogether. So long as it continues, there will be some difference. If every difference is brought here and we have to decide it instead of the Government deciding, I am not prepared to put the responsibility of deciding individual cases, whether it ought to be accepted or not, on the shoulders of the House here. It will involve a decision regarding the matter and going into details.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): This is an important matter, because the life Insurance Corporation employees are making two demands. Firstly, there is the categorisation scheme which

makes an invidious distinction between workers, and at the same time by categorising them, they suffer a financial loss. I have seen the order of the Finance Ministry, and they have said: "...in the interests of the Corporation and its policyholders a reduction in the remuneration payable and a revision of the other terms and conditions applicable to the classes of employees aforesaid are called for;"

They are going to revise the pay-scales of these employees, and that is going to affect them; and there is the categorisation scheme that is going to inflict a huge financial loss on these people. At the same time, it might go to the extent of terminating their services. This is one thing.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure some people will be hit, some people will not be hit. So far as the particular financial loss is concerned, shall we go into this matter? It is likely to cause financial loss, therefore it is likely to create an explosive situation, it is likely to lead to a strike and so on and so forth. I have never hesitated to give opportunity to Members here to bring matters to the notice of the House and the Government for taking proper action in particular matters which are of great importance, but I do not think that an adjournment motion is the proper procedure.

So far as these employees, their scales of pay etc., are concerned, I think in the last session Shri Sadhan Gupta or somebody else made some reference to this, and we allotted some time—I am not clear in my mind—but if it is such a serious matter and of great importance, I will look into it. Hon. Members may try to have some time for discussion. I will consider that. So far as the adjournment motion.....

Shri Hem Barua: There is another point.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard sufficiently about it. This adjournment motion is not the proper method. I reject that motion—not that I am not going to allow discussion on it. In case it is

a matter of importance, later on I shall consider.

I have got so many adjournment motions. (*Laughter*).

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I beg to say there should be no laughter when there is such a serious question as an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: I agree with the hon. Member that there ought not to be laughter in all cases.

There are one or two other adjournment motions. I will consider them, and if I do not give my consent, I will inform the hon. Members, and if I feel that I want some elucidation from any hon. Member, I will bring it up before the House tomorrow.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Secretary: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 10th February, 1958.

President's Address

राष्ट्रपति : संसद् के सदस्यगण, संसद् के नये सत्र का भार संभालने के समय आप का पुनः स्वागत करते हुए मुझे हर्ष हो रहा है।

दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना का द्वितीय वर्ष समाप्त होने जा रहा है। जैसा कि आप जानते हैं इस योजना के द्वितीय वर्ष के आरम्भ से ही हमारी आर्थिक व्यवस्था पर काफ़ी दबाव रहा है। अपने गत मई के अभिभाषण में मैंने आप से कहा था :—

“जिन कमियों का मैंने जिक्र किया है उन्हें दूर करने का अधिक आसान तरीका यह हो सकता है कि हम निर्माण-सम्बन्धी काम को स्थगित कर दें, पर वह तरीका रचनात्मक या लाभदायक नहीं है, क्योंकि समस्या को मुलभूताने का यह सच्चा या स्थायी उपाय नहीं है। हमें अधिक उत्पादन करने और निर्माण कार्य में सुधार को बनाए रखने के लिये अपने साधनों