

HARTAL OF WHOLESALE TRADERS IN DELHI

Mr. Speaker: Then, there is another adjournment motion—

“To discuss the situation arising out of the continued hartal of wholesale traders in Delhi following the Government's refusal to exempt the Union Territory of Delhi from the purview of Inter-State Sales Tax”

This has been given notice of by Shri Assar I do not know whether people can go on a hartal if there is any measure of taxation What does the hon Minister say?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I am sorry that some of the traders of Delhi should have gone on a hartal I want the business in Delhi to thrive, and every trader to make a reasonable profit too So, apart from the merits of this question, I am sorry that they should have gone on strike or hartal If anything, the hartal has hampered and not facilitated the solution of the problem I know that hartals have been associated with Sales Tax imposition in other places But, here, the hartal has been organised in order to secure exemption from a tax which is applicable to the entire country

I have been giving thought to the matter and I would like to make a reasonable concession in order to enable the trade of Delhi to be carried on in a satisfactory way with due regard to the interests of other States so that all may prosper and all may thrive Even if anything is done it will not be done because of the hartal but in spite of it And, if the hartal continues, it is just possible that the atmosphere may not be available in which one can apply his mind dispassionately, in a detached way and in sympathy with the subject So, I think this concession that is being sought can be thought of in a proper atmosphere But I on my part have been trying to give the utmost attention to it

I have discussed it with the members of the Advisory Committee of

Delhi who are Members of Parliament for days and days and also with some representatives of the trade I am sorry that in spite of that the hartal should have been organised and notice of this motion should have been given It is altogether out of order, altogether uncalled for and not likely to help those who have either induced the Mover to put it or who have considered it advisable to adopt the course of having a procession or going in for a hartal The country wants to tackle all its problems in a rational way and not under pressure

Mr Speaker: In view of the statement of the hon Minister I do not think I am called upon to give my consent All that the hon Member wanted evidently was to draw the attention of the House to the fact that public may suffer on account of the hartal I am sure, if this is his point of view, the Government will make arrangements to take over all trade

Consent is not given to this motion

NON-LOCATION OF OIL REFINERY IN ASSAM

Mr. Speaker There is another adjournment motion by Shri Hem Barua and another hon Member It is to discuss—

“The wide-spread and grave unrest and highly explosive situation in Assam consequent on the unjust action of the Government of India refusing to locate the proposed Oil Refinery in Assam”

If Government takes a decision to have an oil refinery elsewhere, then another State will go on strike Likewise if a steel plant is not located somewhere in Madras that part may go on strike and so on

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati) It is not like that, Sir It is the legitimate demand of the people of Assam to have the Oil Refinery located there But now information has come that the Government of India had made an alternative proposal of not locating the refinery there

I find that the Assam Assembly passed two resolutions unanimously,